

Assessment of the
Cerebrally Palsied Child
for Education
SOCIETY'S NEW BOOK
Edited by the Director
James Loring
Available from the
Publications Dept.—Price 15/-

SPASTICS NEWS

SEPTEMBER, 1968 Vol. XIV, No. 9

PUBLISHED BY THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

NEW SERIES PRICE 6d.

OUR ROYAL PATRON

THE sudden death last week of our Patron, H.R.H. Princess Marina, was a stunning blow to The Spastics Society. For more than 20 years she had given dedicated service to our cause, and without her life in the Society will never be quite the same again.

In this issue of Spastics News we present a special pull-out Memorial Supplement as our small tribute to this great lady and truly loyal friend.

The 58 letter word reward

Cafe owner Mrs. Carter has decided to reward tourists who put money in her Spastics Society collecting doll by reciting the name of the village. Money is rolling in. The cafe is in the Anglesey village of LLANFAIRWLLGWYNGYLLGOGERYCHWYRNDROBWLLLLANDYSILIOGOGOGOCH!

Living on £10 a week — or less...

APPROXIMATELY 60 per cent of handicapped people have incomes of £10 a week or less, one-third of their households contain three or more persons and a great many live in deplorable housing conditions said Mr. James Loring, Director of the Spastics Society, when he addressed a scientific session of the Harrogate Festival of Arts and Sciences.

Less important

Mr. Loring said the adaptation of the home was less important than the method by which disabled people secured housing — if at all — and he declared that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government should be very hard on Local Authorities who made little or no effort to register the names and addresses of disabled

people, check on their housing and other problems and develop services for them.

Some Authorities, he said, had registered six or ten times as many disabled as others. A fairly recent survey had shown that the most backward Authorities in this respect were Kent, Staffordshire, Leicester, the North Riding, Portsmouth, Oxford, Southampton, Southport, Hampshire and Liverpool.

"The whole problem is bigger than is supposed," said Mr. Loring. "Disability underlies a great deal of long-term unemployment, human isolation, loneliness and suffering. So far as spastics are concerned the Spastics Society is very active in this field, but one sometimes feels that activity of this sort lulls the general public into a sense of false security and achievement.

Roger, a 28-year-old colour processor, is a hemiplegic spastic with a limp and severe difficulty in using his right arm.

But he has been sailing for 10 years, often using his teeth for jobs that would usually be done by hand. And he owns the catamaran in which the pair will make their crossing.

Worthwhile

The trip will need all their energy and skill, but they consider it will have been well worthwhile if it not only gains public support but also encourages other spastics who would like to sail but have always

considered it an impossibility.

If the weather is too bad for the trip, the men intend to wait in Dover until it clears.

"We just shan't move from the town until we can set sail."

WANTED — 150 FEET

Mr. Raymond Husband, Manager of the Southampton Spastics Work Centre is appealing for a hundred and fifty feet. He wants seventy-five volunteers to tramp through the streets in a house-to-house collection drive at the end of September. It is hoped to attract an average of 5d. from every household in Southampton.

Merger will cut admin

TWO OF BRITAIN'S major charities have announced that they are to join forces with a combined staff working under one general director.

The two organisations are the Central Council for the Disabled, which is concerned with social welfare, and the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases, whose aim is medical research.

General policy

The immediate effects of the collaboration will be the creation of a joint Council of the two bodies to approve general policy and the bringing together of the two staffs under the general direction of Mr. Duncan Guthrie, formerly Director of the National Fund.

Mr. Guthrie explains that the move has been made to enable combined administration.

"Beyond this, each of our two organisations will carry on in its own right," he says.

PRIZE FLOAT

A float entered by the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society won a prize for the "most attractive or original vehicle" at the Brighton Lions Carnival.

The entry won a silver cup and £5 for group funds.

WANTED
Used English
Commemorative Postage Stamps
Price list and full details by
return from:—
W. SPARKS, P.J.S.,
28 Greenway Road,
Taunton, Somerset.

TWO READY FOR CHANNEL SAIL ATTEMPT



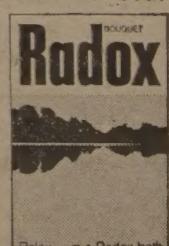
Roger Holt and Peter West pictured in the Catamaran in which they will attempt to cross the Channel and back.

Almost a 'ton'...
A flag day organised in Falmouth by the local '62 Club has raised £97 16s. 1d.

Relax in a Radox bath

After a hard day relax in a Radox bath.
Have the water just comfortably hot. Slide right down in the bath. Linger in it for at least 10 minutes. Fatigue and tension just float away in warm water made soothing and fragrant by Radox. It's a comfort to both tired mind and weary body. Your skin is left smooth, soft and refreshed. Soap lathers better. Hardwater scum and 'high tide marks' are eliminated. A quick rinse with plain water and the bath is left clean and inviting. Then, off to bed: relaxed in body and mind. You'll sleep better and wake refreshed.

Radox makes a bath special.



A NICHOLAS N PRODUCT, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH, BUCKS.

BREAK TRADITION — WHEN NECESSARY

ADDRESSING the E.G.M. in the Spring, Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society, hinted at a number of changes in the structure of the Society to which the Executive Committee were giving consideration.

In a Society like ours, he said, we had in these swift-moving times to keep our organisation constantly under review, and we must not hesitate to make changes or break with tradition where such moves would produce greater efficiency.

cy and better results in our work of helping spastics. It is also important that the time generously given by voluntary workers should be put to the best possible use and that Committees which have ceased to serve a useful purpose should be eliminated from the Society's structure or combined with other Committees.

The Executive have agreed that certain changes will be in the best interests of the Society and, as a number of these are of a constitutional nature, it

has been decided to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting prior to the A.G.M. on Saturday, November 2nd, when resolutions for adopting a revised Memorandum and New Articles of Association will be put to the membership.

What do these changes mean? Why are they being suggested? So that all concerned could have the earliest possible information, Spastics News asked Mr. Burn to make a statement for its readers. It appears in full on Page Eight.

The entry won a silver cup and £5 for group funds.

Spastics News
Published monthly by
The Spastics Society
Editorial Office
12 Park Crescent
London, W.1.
Tel: 01-636 5020
Advertising Office
2 Helmet Court
Wormwood Street,
London, E.C.2.
Tel: 01-588 5316

'Giant' door-knock a success

A GIANT door-knock campaign throughout the county two sponsored walks and a sponsored swim were the basis of activities during Durham Spastics Week recently.

Three groups in the area — Durham City, Sunderland and Darlington — took part in the Week which was a considerable financial success. Money raised during the week — over £4,000 — will go towards the Durham House Unit project, and in Darlington to a local scheme.

Sponsored Swim

The sponsored walk held by the Sunderland group was a very well organised exercise and raised £1,800. Another walk in Durham and an unusual event — a sponsored swim — were the major attractions in the City and helped to swell the coffers considerably.

A Summer Fayre at Darlington and a Fashion Show and Fete in Sunderland completed the programme. Many lessons were learned by the groups in the area — particularly the need for more helpers and more publicity — but they proved that a limited programme properly organised can produce excellent results.

FRIENDS PLOT CASH-RAISING PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME for raising money and increasing membership has been drawn up by the Friends of Jacques Hall in Manningtree, Essex. Events will include coffee evenings, cheese and wine parties, a firemen's display, barn dance and, most ambitious of all, a Guy Fawkes and Barbecue Night with a Firework Display.

The Friends have already raised £325 in recent weeks by organising a fete, opened at Jacques Hall by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Colonel Brooks. This money will go towards the running and maintenance of the coach bought by the Friends last year for the Jacques Hall residents.

The Warden of Jacques Hall, run by the Spastics Society for adult spastics, is Mr. J. Mitura.

"I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the Society and the residents of the Centre to this very faithful band of Friends" he told Spastics News. "As well as organising all these events they also give practical support to projects within the Centre, thus saving money as well as raising



Fund-raising is never a piece of cake. But this particular cake, made at R.A.F. Chivenor, has helped to raise some money for the recently formed North Devon Committee of the Exeter and Torbay Spastics Society.

Flt-Lt. A. W. Grove, Catering Officer at Chivenor, is pictured presenting the cake to P.C. John Fry, Hon. Sec. of the Committee, and Mrs. S. Hutchings, who organised a cake sale in aid of the clinic which has been established by the Committee in Barnstaple.

The sale raised nearly £70 and included a chocolate cake shaped like a church and presented by dancer Aleta Morrison. (Picture by courtesy of North Devon Journal-Herald, Barnstaple).

Matchbook orders still pour in

ORDERS for personalised matchbooks continue to stream in to the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics Work Centre in the Hillington Industrial Estate, Glasgow.

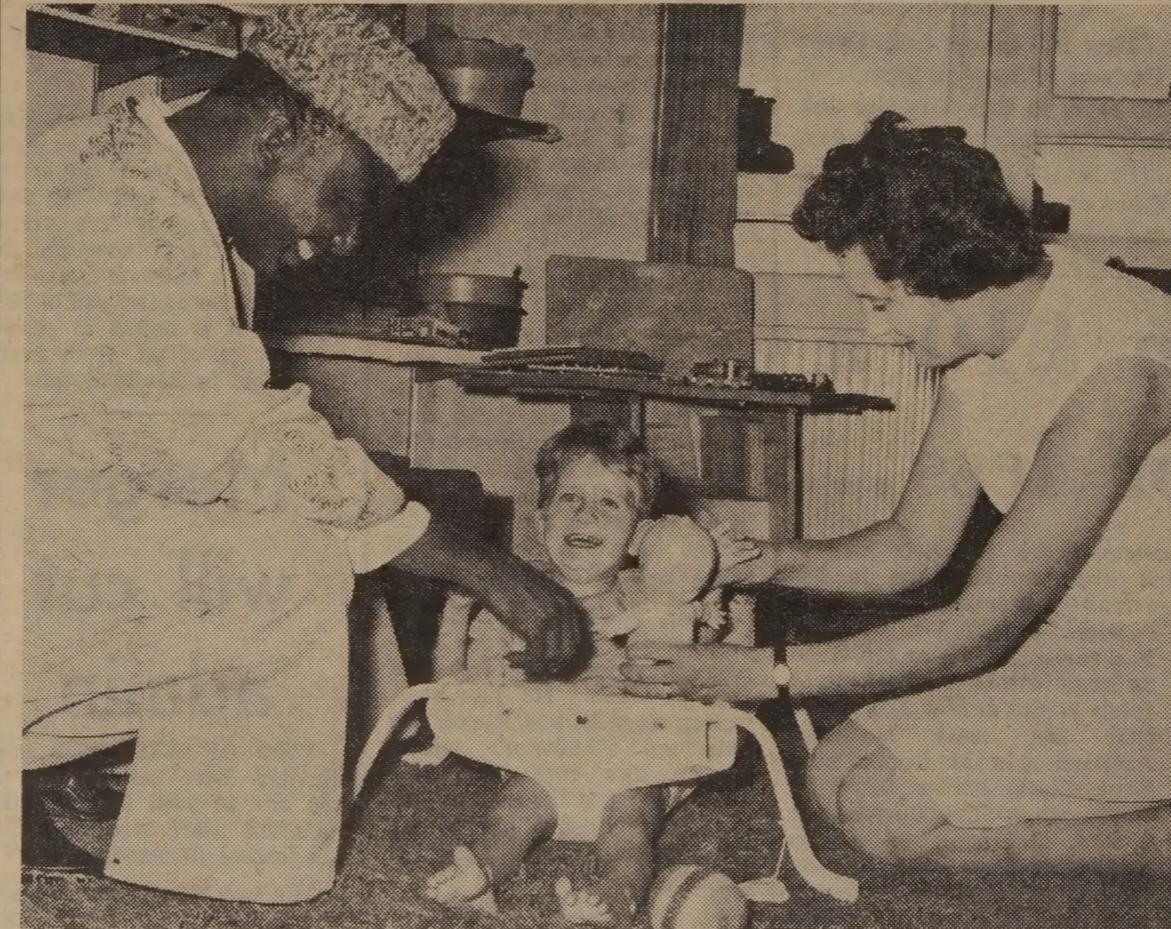
Mr. Balfour, Manager of the Works Centre, told a reporter of Spastics News that the Wedding Book-match which includes a "pop-up" Bride and Groom, was easily the best seller. Any quantity of a design can be ordered and "personalised" information printed on the bookmatch cover at very reasonable prices.

Bookmatches with advertising messages have also been produced for national companies such as Rootes, Shell and B.P.

The matchbooks are printed, assembled and stapled then packed entirely by handicapped workers in the Spastics Work Centre. The continual demand for these bookmatches ensures these Spastics steady employment — any reader interested in obtaining a quotation for bookmatches to commemorate a birthday party, wedding celebration, and so on, should contact Mr. Balfour.

No money so they used their hands

Members of the Youth Club at Stanground, Peterborough, have very little money to spare, so they decided to use their hands to help spastics. In the past few months they have repaired and re-painted more than 200 old and faded Spastics Society collecting boxes and have now started work on 50 more. They are also collecting and delivering the boxes at their own expense and have assured the local appeals organiser that they can be called upon to help "at any time."



SOME of the ideas and methods of assessment and training of spastic children being used at our Fitzroy Square Family Services and Assessment Centre may help in the provision of services for the handicapped in Nigeria.

A recent visitor to Fitzroy Square was the President of the Nigerian Association of Rehabilitation of the Disabled, His Excellency Alhaji Ado Bayero, Emir of Kano (pictured above with Mrs. Jean Kennedy and her three-year-old son Peter, and right, with Mrs. Stella Ahmad, cook at the centre).

The Emir, who has now returned to Nigeria, spent some time in England on a visit arranged by the British Council, studying our methods of training spastic children and rehabilitating disabled people.

At Fitzroy Square he talked to Miss Margaret Morgan, head of social work and employment, and members of her staff, and saw the equipment and facilities available for assessment.

The Emir is no stranger to England. He has been here

GAMES TRIAL PLAN TO SET STANDARD

ONE of the big problems of running a sports meeting for spastics is in "equalising" the competitors with various degrees of handicap. So, as a trial to the National Spastics Games to be held during National Spastics Week next year, a "mini-sports" meeting will be held at The Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, on September 14 and 15.

Thirty-eight volunteers from four Spastics Society Schools will compete in track, field and team events. Watching them will be a team of specialists and other helpers who will form the nucleus of organising and track officials for the big event at the Stoke Mandeville stadium in July 1969.

Incentive

A committee headed by Mr. John Le Prevost, the Society's Education Officer is studying the likely problems of holding such an event. The aim of the Games is to provide an incentive to individuals and organisations for spastics to enlarge their leisure programmes by including training for the games within their activities. Says Mr. Le Prevost: "This may be a more important benefit of the proposal for the games than even participation."

Mr. A. T. S. Edwards, a qualified physical education teacher with long experience of the

blind and the physically handicapped has been seconded from the Thomas Delarue School to work as technical adviser to the Games. He has already started work on preliminary standardisation tests.

The programme for the National Spastics Games is already being drawn up and will include swimming. There will be three main groups of entries — under 13 years of age; 13-18 years and over 18 years. It is planned that next year's event will be the first in a developing Games programme over a period of years. A feature of the first games (probably the first event to be held at the new Stoke Mandeville Stadium) will be demonstrations of activities that could form an integral part of future games.

Enquiries and offers of assistance should be sent to Mr. Le Prevost at the Society's headquarters at Park Crescent and observers will be welcome to attend the mini-sports on September 14 and 15 this year.

World record disc jockey played for 144 hours

DISC jockey Paul Vincent has just raised £55 for Castleford and District Spastics Society by playing records non-stop for 144½ hours — a world record.

Mr. Vincent is resident disc jockey at the "Somewhere Else" Night Club in Wakefield who, during the cheque presentation, also handed over a large iced cake for the Castleford spastics.

Seaside holiday

The Group is a small one, devoted mainly to welfare work. But in recent months they have been working all-out on a "holiday accommodation at the seaside" project, and so far have raised more than £500 by flag days, concerts, a gala and sports day and a darts and dominoes competition which, it is hoped, will become an annual event.

Now they are almost ready to begin looking for suitable accommodation on the East or North-East coast — probably a chalet which can be adapted for spastics.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

THE chief discussion points at the annual meeting of Dewsbury and District Spastics Society were plans for a child-care centre in the town and the future of spastics when their parents were no longer able to care for them.

"This Society ought to get down to sorting out just what can be done in the coming year. We shall have to start moving on something," declared member Mr. Ward.

President

For the children's clubs they would probably get help in providing the new chairs that were needed by some of the Society's spastics.

Officers elected: Chairman, Mrs. D. Wood; Deputy Chairman, Mr. B. C. Robinson; Secretary, Mrs. D. Robinson; Treasurer, Mr. G. Laycock.

The Executive Committee was re-elected en bloc with the addition of Mrs. Thompson.



Now youngsters can get hydrotherapy

HYDROTHERAPY treatment is now being provided by the Bedford and District Spastics Society and the Group has its own heated pool at its centre in Bromham Road, Bedford.

This was announced by the secretary, Miss Annice Kidder, at the annual meeting. Miss Kidder said about 12 handicapped people had attended the work centre daily and the standard of work had improved. An average of 21 children had attended the classroom and nursery each day, 36 were receiving hydrotherapy, 21 physiotherapy and nine speech therapy each week.

Miss Kidder said some members of the public might think that too many appeals for spastic children were made in Bedford. But the cost of running the centre had risen considerably during the past year, and without successful appeals the work could not continue.

27 NOW WORK AT BROMLEY

THERE were now 27 spastics in training and employment at the Bromley Work centre said Mr. E. W. Harding, Chairman of West Kent Spastics Society, at the Group's annual meeting.

He paid tribute to the Reverend Mother of Holy Trinity Convent, who provided midday meals at the centre and to the Borough Welfare Department who had given transport facilities.

RAFFLE — TO A DREAM

Dear Editor,

EVERYONE naturally will be writing to tell you of their holidays at this time of the year. But I feel that I must tell you about mine. It all started at the end of last year when my work companion Mrs. Russel told me that a raffle was taking place at the Leicester Bingo Club.

This raffle was drawn every week and the winner could take a friend with them to Belgium for a week's holiday.

Tickets

Like a mad fool I got her to get me some tickets. But before obtaining these for me she explained my disability to the Organisers who became very interested.

That same evening they told the Bingo players — and they began buying tickets for me.

Anyway a very kind lady, a Mrs. Conway, who won twice presented me with one of her winning tickets.

A friend

The owner, Mrs. Perkins, then offered to pay for another spastic who is a friend of mine to accompany me.

Believe me we had a marvellous holiday and we shall always be grateful to these remarkable people who have made a dream come true.

Yours sincerely,

R. W. PAYNE
30 Anstey Lane,
Leicester.

Representing 'voice of the disabled'

Dear Editor,

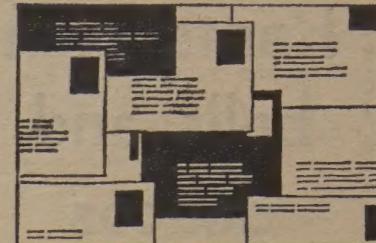
RECENTLY I went to London to attend a Rally of the Disablement Income Group. The purpose was to press the Government to grant a pension to all disabled people. I believe that I was one of two spastics who travelled with the other handicapped, to represent Birmingham at the meeting. Soon after we took up our position in Trafalgar Square, we were joined by other disabled people from different parts of the Country.

All those in wheelchairs, like myself, had a very good view of the proceedings from the front row. The Speakers included Lord Soper, Michael Flanders



YOU write to US

Please address your letters to: The Editor, Spastics News, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1., and print your address clearly at the end of the letter. There is 10s. 6d. for each letter published sent by a spastic.



Project Horizon — a plan to aid Scottish Spastics

Dear Editor,

READERS of Spastics News might easily misinterpret the words "British Society" in Mr. W. Warren Lampe's letter to mean the Spastics Society covers the whole of Britain, and as this is not the case I feel a little clarification might be useful.

In Scotland the welfare and education of Spastics is in the hands of The Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics, which celebrated its 21st Birthday last November, and is the oldest organisation of its kind in Britain. Since the Scottish Council was founded in 1946 it has provided three Residential Schools for Spastics, three Work Training Centres including a Laundry, a Residential Hostel for Spastic Workers, a Residential Long-Term Care

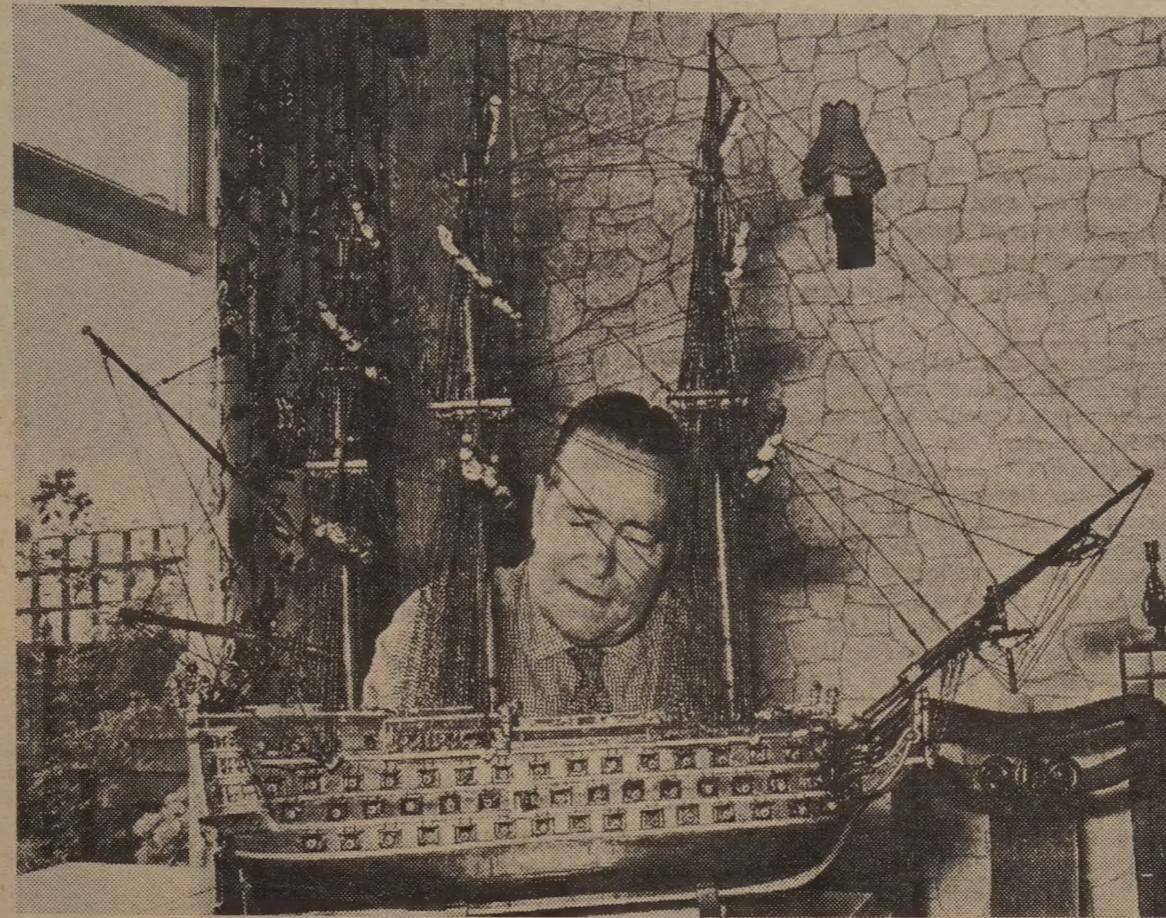
Establishment for adolescent and young adult Spastics, a Holiday Home at Kames Castle on the Island of Bute, and a Mobile Therapy Unit utilising a fleet of Hillman Imps — this unit is the only one of its kind in the world and provides Scottish Spastics and their parents from Thurso to Kirkcudbright with service and advice from the Council's Social, Medical, Therapeutic and Educational departments. The Scottish Council also finances seven Day Centres throughout Scotland which are administered by local Affiliated Associations.

Unique

In Glasgow, a city much maligned and criticised by the national press and television, the City Authority provides a School for Spastics, a local authority service which I understand to be unique!

The Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics, through its own Appeal Department raises funds north of the border to maintain its services and is at present involved in "Project Horizon," a £1m fund-raising plan which will assist in the provision of future long term care of Scottish Spastic adults.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS S. WRIGHT
Appeal Officer



'THEY OUGHT TO GIVE US A CHANCE'

Dear Editor,

I AM a spastic fellow and I am 35 years old.

I think people look on us as though we don't know what we are saying. They ought to give us a chance of trying anything that we are capable of doing.

When we go to do anything people say to us, we cannot do it. But it is only because we don't get a chance of doing anything. I hope other spastics will agree with me in what I am saying about this. I would like other people to write to "Spastics News" and give their views about this. I hope this will help spastics and I hope they will agree with me in what I say. It is only because we are a bit slower than other people. I would like to have a meeting about this with other people, or for them to write to me and tell me what they think.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE SEYMOUR

The Chiltern Cheshire Home,
North Park,
Gerrards Cross,
Bucks.

Never lucky enough to have worked...

Dear Editor,

I TOO would join Stanley Stilwell in his very pointed remarks in "Spastics News." For I'm a spastic in the over-50 age group and strongly dislike the way a distinction is made between the disabled who have worked and draw sick pay and those who, like me, have never been lucky enough to work.

I have to live on the government allowance. I live with my 82-year-old father and because he was wise enough to save and I'm not the householder, I am now on the maximum allowed for a single person.

No extras added for coal, etc. This doesn't seem fair and all disabled persons (from birth) should be on a pension to cover their needs.

Old 'uns

I also think where possible the Spastics Society should give some help to those old 'uns who, like myself, are able to cope in our own homes, but would welcome at least a few extras to make things easier.

This, to me, seems a less expensive way than residential care units though I know these are needed too.

The spastic children of today are in most cases well cared for, but they, too, will one day grow old and have either old parents or none at all. What is going to become of them? Will they hear the same story?

"When we have got all the

young ones cared for." That will be never and anyway, at 53, it won't do me or my age group any good.

So it seems to me it's Do-It-Yourself for the not so young as we would like to be.

MISS M. RIGBY

13, Cinnamon Hill Drive South,
Walton-le-Dale,
Preston,
Lancs.

CHESHIRE HOMES AMALGAMATION ?

Dear Editor,

I THINK I ought to write a little bit for the Spastics News once more. I notice that all the letters in the recent editions have been very interesting.

I must congratulate the Southampton Spastics Society for their help in making the coat hangers for the Queen Elizabeth 2. I notice they have provided part of the boat for disabled passengers — what a good idea. Let's hope that some spastics will have the pleasure of a trip one day. I know a bit about Southampton docks — I used to go to Woodlarks in the 50's and we used to have a trip to Southampton docks.

Docks tour

Once there were the two Queen ships there — one in dry dock and the other waiting to go out. It was a marvellous sight — like a huge floating hotel. We had a tour of the docks, even into the motor houses, etc. I really enjoyed it — I will always remember Southampton and wish their Society the best of luck.

I notice in the August issue

that the Spastics Society has reserved two beds in the new Cheshire Home at Hitchin. What a good idea. I would like to see the Spastics Society and the Cheshire Homes Foundation amalgamated. The Cheshire Homes do cater for all disabled and it doesn't matter how bad they are. They give a homelier life to those who might otherwise be confined to hospitals.

'Thank goodness'

About three years ago I went to a Cheshire Home in Sandbach, Cheshire, for a fortnight's holiday. This was where I saw that the Cheshire Homes do really cater for the severely handicapped. I believe there are 56 or 58 homes up and down the country, besides a few abroad. Thank goodness someone has thought of how to provide for disabled people so that they don't have to spend their lives in hospitals.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PUDNEY

Angers House,
2 Church Road,
Liverpool 15.

Club has filled a 'great gap'

Dear Editor,

May I tell you of our Youth Club? The day is Thursday, the time is 6 p.m. and the excitement is intense; Norma is dying to be off, the destination is the Health Centre and the Merlins Bridge Youth Club. This has been organised and is maintained by some of the staff at the Health Centre and it got off to a flying start and has never looked back. This Club fills a much needed gap in the lives of the handicapped and Thursday is the highlight of the week.

The beautiful centre has been made available and the main room is used for dancing, and there is a darts room and table tennis; skittles; cards;

dominoes; a television room, but dancing is the main attraction and some weird and wonderful steps are performed.

'Like silk'

Norma is dressed in her best; hair brushed like silk; shoes polished and she is 'raring to go'; so, out to the old van; pick up a friend and the 8 miles to town seems like 20 to our impatient passengers.

On arrival we hear the record player beating out the pop music, so in we go, to be greeted by "Hi Norm!" and handshakes and kisses, we are engulfed in a wave of happy comradeship. The nicest thing about our Youth Club is the way the young people from the

Toc H and local grammar school come to provide partners for the dancing and games, these young people are wonderful. I would like to pay a tribute to them for the understanding they show. It is rather sickening that people seldom hear of the good that youngsters do.

Halfway thro' the evening we are glad to sit down with a cup of tea and a biscuit; but sitting down is not allowed for long, and we are soon back on the dance floor again. Games, film shows and a most splendid barbecue on the beach are greatly enjoyed.

This Youth Club has filled a great gap in the lives of our trainees and we parents find it is a wonderful get-together and

I enjoy meeting the other mothers it is surprising how much we find we can discuss.

Lucky

We are very lucky to have a dedicated mental health service in our area and the committee work so hard to give this evening out to the members of the Youth Club, and so many people have given records, games and other help. We love our Club, I wonder how many there are? I am sure there are not enough.

Your sincerely,
ANN WRIGHT

The Manse,
Brimaston, Hayscastle Cross,
Haverfordwest,
Pembs., Wales.

Hants plan balls and dances

ORD Montague of Beaulieu, famed for his motor car museum, is patron of Hampshire's week (September 22 to 28). Taking part will be Portsmouth, Basingstoke, Southampton, Winchester and Andover.

Southampton group have organised a 'door knock' operation all week. At Winchester the Mayor is helping to support the week and a meeting will be held by invitation in his parlour.

Bournemouth, Portsmouth and Southampton are all organising balls or dances and there will be open days at Bournemouth and Portsmouth centres. Other activities include coffee parties, exhibitions, film shows and services.

Money for Jumble

Stamford members are so pleased with the efforts of six local children that they have asked us to make special mention in the 'News.'

During their school holidays the youngsters organised a jumble sale in one of their back gardens, and raised £5 16s 4d. for the Stamford Spastics Group. So our special thanks to Susan Boydon, Susan James, David and John Jones and Sandra and Wendy Corby.

'INTO THE WIDE GULLET OF THE TREASURY'

A POWERFUL attack on the Government's move to tax the charitable activities of the Pool and competitions run in support of The Spastics Society was made by the Society's Director, Mr. James Loring, when he spoke at the Official Opening of the Gladys Holman Home in Camborne, Cornwall.

Mr. Loring said this move had been made through the 1965 Finance Act. As a result the Society had been deprived of funds with which it could have relieved the burden on local authorities, whose own welfare and education budgets were being cut back.

Great loss

"The taxes raised by the Act will slide into the wide gullet of the Treasury and be lost in the great mass of taxation which goes into the belly of the Government," he declared. "The benefit to the community will be very slight, and the loss to the handicapped very great."

Mr. Loring said there were at least 500 heavily handicapped adult spastics urgently needing care and support in a residential or day centre. But if the Society's funds did not recover, many of these people would have no alternative but to go into a geriatric ward or sub-normality hospital. These hospitals had become "dumping grounds" for local authorities who themselves had no proper facilities.

"The greatest of all crimes committed against defenceless handicapped people is to commit them to these disgraceful institutions," he said. "The place for heavily handicapped spastics who cannot be looked after by their own family is a small local authority home close to the community or, if they require treatment, then in the wards of a general hospital. It would cost relatively little money to achieve this limited objective, and only the arthritic arrogance of a discredited system for long stay patients could allow the present situation to remain."

Vital functions

Mr. Loring added that The Spastics Society, which was dedicated to the cause of the cerebral palsied, did not only exist to fill gaps in public services. Another of its most vital functions was to help mould public opinion to the needs of spastics.

"To do this it must be prepared to strike independent attitudes. To speak out loud and clear. It cannot be a lap dog of

the Establishment," he said.

The new centre — Cornwall's first home for adult spastics — is a Georgian mansion set amid several acres. It was originally known as Rosewarne, and was the home of the Holman family for 50 years. Then, in 1965, it was given to The Spastics Society by Mr. J. F. Holman, Chairman of the Camborne firm of Holman Bros. Ltd. and renamed Gladys Holman House in memory of his mother. Her eldest daughter, Mrs. B. L. Campbell, performed the Official Opening by unveiling a commemorative plaque.

Conversations

In a short speech she praised the way conversations to the house had been carried out, adding that they had been done so skilfully that the house had lost none of the happy family atmosphere she remembered so well.

Guests were welcomed to the ceremony by Mr. P. W. Varcoe, Chairman of the Cornish Spastics Society. This Society is concerned with the welfare of approximately 200 spastics in Cornwall and also runs a holiday home at Par.

BUSINESS BOOMS AT THE SHOP

WATFORD members are delighted by the initial success of their new shop. It made £20 on its first day and business is continuing to boom.

This is particularly good news because, at the annual meeting of Hertfordshire Spastics Society, treasurer Mr. H. E. Holt warned of a serious shortage of funds.

Tied up

Mr. Holt said that the Society's total funds were about £50,000 but most of that was tied up in Watford Treatment Centre, which had an annual deficit of about £4,000.

There were two other spastics centres in the county, Meldreth Training School and Sherrards Industrial Centre. Both of these were pioneer groups, and Sherrards was exceeding its income by about £30,000. It was therefore essential to raise more money.



Beverley Nelson is not only beautiful (she's a beauty queen) and intelligent (she's a dental nurse) but a tireless worker for spastics as well.

Our picture shows her at the bar of the Oatsheaf at Whittlesey, Cambs., before knocking over a spastics beacon. But she has also knocked over two other beacons in the county, travelled to Littport to accept four boxes of money collected by young customers of a small local cafe and journeyed many miles to display and sell spastics jewellery.

Every Wednesday throughout the winter she is at the Railway Inn at Guyhirn, Cambs., whose landlord and customers have worked hard for many years raising funds for Peterborough and District Spastics Society. Wednesday is "Spastics Evening," and Beverley is always there, no matter what the weather, to sell competition tickets, help with auctions and generally encourage customers to help spastics.

Thank you, Beverley.

Priory's crowded summer programme

A CROWDED summer programme has just been completed at Castle Priory, the Spastics Society's Staff Training College in Wallingford, Berkshire.

It began with the summer fete, opened by "Old Father Thames and his River Maidens." Then students visited Glasbury-on-Wye for their annual camp, taking with them some pupils from the Society's Craig-y-Parc School so they could enjoy pony trekking, canoeing, map-making and life under canvas.

The students' entry in the local Carnival won first prize, the students entering as the family of "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe."

However, in case it should be thought that life at the college is all play and no work, the staff point out that this same group of students have all been successful in gaining their Red Cross and Home Nursing Certificates and the girls, who attended Berkshire College of Rural Economy throughout the term, obtained good marks in their cookery examination. They will leave shortly, and a new group of houseparent students will be welcomed to the college this month.

Speaker's visit prompts schoolchildren's poems

HOW do unhandicapped children regard spastics? An interesting and unusual view has come to Spastics News from pupils of St. Ann's County Secondary School in Hanwell, London.

The school was visited recently by Mrs. Marianne West, the Spastics Society's Official Speaker, who is herself a young spastic. Her visit inspired some of the pupils to write a poem, and we reproduce one of them here.

AM I REALLY UNLUCKY?

How I wish I was tall and thin,
With wavy, long blond hair,

A tanned brown face and
bright brown eyes,
And a cheerful smile, not a
grin.

How I wish I was famous,
A girl whom everyone knows;
But I'm plain R. Few,
With a turned-up nose
And a very peculiar pose!

One day a Spastic came to our
school,
A pretty-looking lady,
She was very very calm
And stood up surprisingly
boldly;

She told us her story:—
Her life with cerebral palsy.

Some stories were amusing,
Others were quite sad;

Please give spastics normal
limbs
And a brain that will keep
them going.
Surely something can be done,
Please understand them,
everyone.

R. FEW

THE CATAMARAN COMPETITION

£10 Premium Bond First Prize

1. The Catamaran Competition is organised by the London '62 Club. Two of its members, Roger Holt and Peter West, are to sail a catamaran from Dover to Cap Gris Nez and back. The journey will take place on September 14, 1968.

2. Competitors have to use their skill and judgement to estimate the time taken for the journey from Dover to Cap Gris Nez and back. Time actually spent at Cap Gris Nez will not be included.

3. Winning entry will be the first envelope opened containing the correct estimate of the time taken for the journey. Second and third prizes will be awarded to the competitors submitting the next two correct entries opened. Should no competitor send in a correct entry, those with the nearest time will be adjudged winners.

4. All envelopes will be opened in the presence of the Executive and Committee of the London '62 Club.

5. In the event of bad weather the trip will be held as soon after as possible. Should the trip be cancelled, all entry money will be refunded.

6. Winners will be notified by post and results published in the November issue of "Spastics News."

7. All entries must be received by first post, September 14, 1968. Postal Orders should be crossed and made payable to the London '62 Club.

POST YOUR ENTRY NOW

CUT HERE

I enclose Postal Order No.....Value.....
for.....attempts at the Catamaran Competition.

NAME

ADDRESS

ATTEMPTS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
HOURS								
MINUTES								
COST	6d	1/-	1/6	2/0	2/6	3/-	3/6	4/-

KEEPING 'IN TOUCH' WITH EVENTS . . .

CANTERBURY and East Kent Coast Group have decided to send a copy of "Spastics News" to all their spastics each month free of charge. Each copy will bear the Group's rubber stamp and, says Chairman Mr. Frank Higenbottam, it is hoped the idea will keep spastics and their parents in touch with both local and national activities.

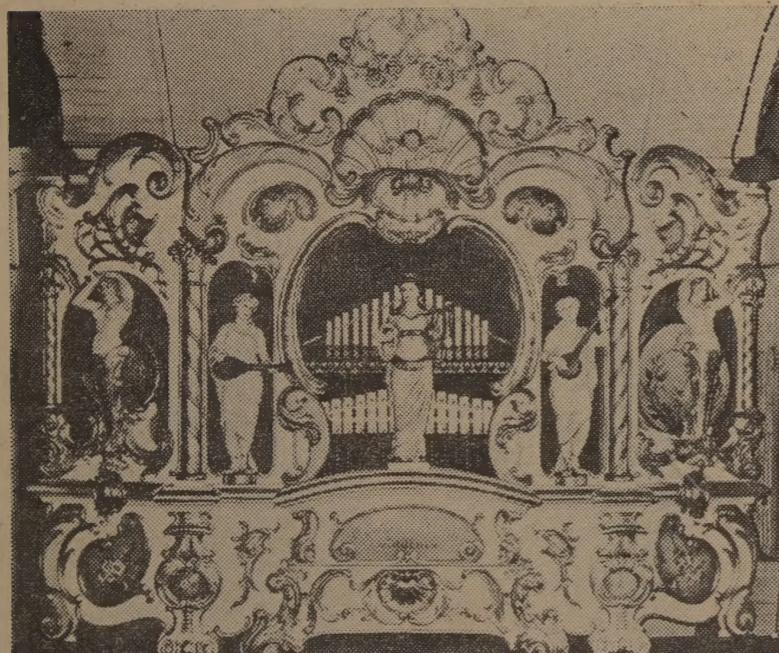
"We could have taken the easy way out and taken out subscriptions for each spastic, to be posted by The Spastics Society direct. But we prefer to pay a little more in postage in order to have this link between the Group and our spastics," declares Mr. Higenbottam.

Newsletter

He estimates it will cost about £36 per year to send the paper to approximately 60 spastics. From time to time it will be accompanied by the Group's new occasional Newsletter.

"I was against the new format of Spastics News at first, but now I realise it is better in many ways," says Mr. Higenbottam. "It contains more news and being cheaper to produce should attract many more subscribers."

What is it?



This is White Ruth, a lady so renowned for her glamour that people have just been flocking to Stamford from all over Britain to see her. For White Ruth is one of the world's most famous fair organs, and she made her first-ever appearance in this country at the Stamford and District Spastics Society Carnival.

White Ruth was made in Germany 64 years ago and was originally placed at a steam mill. Now she is owned by Dutchman Theo Koek, and her career is with a carousel in Holland. (Picture kindly loaned by Mr. H. Rowatt of Stamford).

ONE of the first Groups to take a London Holiday based on the new Family Services and Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square was the Crosby, Bootle, Litherland and District Spastics Society. Group Secretary, Mrs. E. Rimmer, booked four spastic girls from Liverpool into Fitzroy House for a week, on the understanding that she would arrange all the sightseeing trips.

The day on which the group arrived in London was one of the hottest for six years and was also the occasion when a freak Sahara dust storm hit Southern England. No wonder they said that the London pavements felt like "The sands of the desert."

Mrs. Rimmer points out that one of the many advantages of

Janet gets her 'silver'



AN exciting moment for 19-year-old Janet Bentley, of New House Farm, Blakedown, Worcestershire. Though a severely handicapped spastic, she has attained the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award, here being presented to her by Mr. S. K. Quayle, President of the Midland Spastics Association's Helping Hand Youth Club.

Janet was the first club member to undertake the Award, and she is now determined to achieve the Gold Award as well.

Watching the presentation are the Mayor and Mayoress of Bewdley, Councillor and Mrs. Walter Cross. (Picture by courtesy of Kidderminster Times and Stourport News).

CONTINUE 'ALL-OUT'

GLoucester and District Spastics Association hopes to establish its own centre for spastics in the city, and have already raised £1,000 towards it. But the Group's secretary, Mr. William Thomas, warned the Annual Meeting that the centre would require a considerable sum of money to operate, and members must be prepared to continue their all-out efforts.

The treasurer, Mr. E. J. Youldon, reported that the year's income was up by £750.

Pickets caused raised eyebrows when Essex DIG met

THE Essex Branch of the Disablement Incomes Group held its inaugural meeting in the Mayor's Parlour, Colchester. About eighty people from all over Essex were present—both disabled and those who were not. There was some criticism and raised eyebrows at the small picket of disabled persons and University students collecting signatures from passers-by for a petition to the Prime Minister, asking the Government to grant disabled people a pension.

Despite the raised eyebrows, over 500 signatures were collected in under two hours. So far, the Essex Branch of DIG has about 200 members and supporters from all over the county. They have also got 14 of the County's Members of Parliament to agree to be Sponsors of this Branch, which is encouraging. It is their intention to lobby Parliament in the autumn. Disabled people from all over Essex will take part. Truly the best way to make our Parliamentary representatives

aware of the problems of some of their electors is to confront them with those persons directly involved and can do more good than a hundred or a thousand letters.

The group has obtained the interest and support of local organisations, many of them to do with the disabled. Local Spastic groups have given help and assisted with their slim funds.

Some of their future plans

Hurricane damage now repaired

OVER the past few years the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics has been deeply involved in the creation of a new school at Corseford, near Johnstone, which will finally cost in the region of £300,000. Another venture costing nearly £200,000 is the building of a new annexe for Stanmore Occupational Centre at Lanark.

While these buildings have been functioning for less than a year, initial teething problems have already been dealt with and damage caused by the January hurricane has been repaired.

The official opening of these establishments will take place in the autumn and full details will be given in forthcoming issues of the Spastics News.

GROUPS' HELP FOR FITZROY

Two more groups have made a contribution to the cost of the Spastics Society's new Fitzroy Square Centre. They are Cheltenham, who have sent £25, and Southport, Formby and District who have donated 10 gns.

include a survey of shops, and public buildings, plus toilets in Colchester, to publicise the access facilities for wheelchair users and other handicapped people. This survey will be done with the active help of local young people and the Press. Early next year it is hoped to hold a teach-in with politicians, social workers, and disabled people speaking on an equal basis. Mrs. Judith Hart, M.P., Minister of Social Secur-

ity, and Professor Peter Townsend, have agreed to take part.

by
Bernard Brett
A Spastic Founder
Member of Essex D.I.G.

The group is deeply concerned about the plight of some 20 Spastic children living in a Hospital ward, which is so under-staffed that neither the teachers nor the nursing staff can hope to give the children the care they need. The Spastics have to be in bed at 5 p.m. Another of the group's concerns is to stimulate local authorities into providing the services and housing facilities, which they are empowered to do by legislation.

The prime aim of this Essex DIG Branch, however, is to work towards more financial help for the disabled.

A founder member of the Essex Group said, "In Dig, a Spastic is accepted as an equal, and as a person, in a way which I have rarely found in the Spastics Society, for reasons I find easy to understand, and even regrettably to accept."

"Some of my brethren who like myself, are Spastics, may feel unwilling to join in the work of DIG, because they may dislike the stress on publicity and political pressure, for what may seem to be disguised begging. This, I believe, is a mistaken opinion."

REALLY 'HOME FROM HOME'

being based at Fitzroy House was the abundant supply of hot water for the easing of the party's "London footsoreness." Most evenings, tired after a day's sightseeing, they remained indoors after supper, talking, bathing or watching TV and went to bed fairly early. At night they enjoyed looking out on to the tall trees in Fitzroy Square and the illuminated Post Office Tower which faces the bedroom windows.

Downing St.

They went to the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, the sales in Oxford Street, Hampton Court, the top of the Post Office Tower and the Houses of Parliament, where they were shown round by their own Member.

Also in Westminster, they saw Downing Street. ("It looks quite different on the telly" was the verdict) and St. James' Park, where they watched the pelicans give an impressive "water ballet". They completed the day with a visit to Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus where they found it exciting to be part of the cosmopolitan crowd instead of merely seeing it on a screen or postcard.

To the zoo

The next day some of the party made a morning visit to the British Museum, which is within walking distance of Fitzroy House and in the afternoon, all took a river trip from

Westminster Pier to the Tower of London and back.

Later in the week they went to Regents Park Zoo and to Petticoat Lane Market, where, unfortunately, one of the members had her purse containing over £6 stolen. Their final outing was to Hyde Park, where they were amused by the soap box oratory at Speakers Corner.

Mrs. Rimmer says that nothing was too much trouble for the staff of Fitzroy House, and the housekeeper, Mrs. Sorley made their stay a very happy and comfortable one. She hopes that her party's experiences will encourage other Groups to consider booking a holiday in London for their members as Fitzroy House is "Really a home from home (without any of the work!)."

Spastics Weeks' co-ordinator Michael Reynolds takes a look towards next year's big event

MORE 'LEGPOWER' IS REQUIRED

WITH Essex, London and Durham Spastics Weeks behind us, we are now in a position to assess some of the lessons learned from the pilot schemes for National Spastics Week next year.

What are these lessons? First, we need all the time we can spare to plan next year's giant effort. Summer holidays are a disruptive influence at this time of year of course but it is in the next few months that the essential groundwork for the National Week will be done.

Another major lesson learned was the need for a great deal of additional help — from outside the existing group organisation. Both "legpower" — particularly from young people helping with distribution of literature and collections—and organising power" — to run events for us — are needed.

A third very important point is that it is vital to use our available resources in the best possible way. A few major events, thoroughly planned and executed can raise more money and create a greater impact in an area than a number of small events which may go unnoticed.

Full advantage

These are just three of the things learned which we must remember next year. In the next issue of Spastics News I shall be giving details of the sort of help we are planning to give to enable groups to take full advantage of

Shortcomings

These shortcomings are among the things to be rectified next July — but it was to point them out that the pilot weeks were held.

And of course, we must not forget that pilot schemes are also being held in September in Hampshire, Lincolnshire and North Merseyside. We wish them luck and hope that at the end they will echo Mr. Hide of the Central Middlesex group: "We even detected a slight smile of satisfaction on the face of the Hon. Treasurer — always a good sign."



More than £330 has been donated to the Spastics Society by the Collegiate Club in Poole Road, Bournemouth. And there to receive it on behalf of the Society was comedian Dickie Henderson.

The Club's owner, Mr. Mike Curtis, decided to combine the occasion with a party for spastic children, and later Dickie Henderson, and Hope and Keen—sharing the bill with him at the Bournemouth Pavilion—gave them a special entertainment.

During the show he invited

Jeannette Leanore to take a turn at the mike, and she delighted everyone by singing a whole song with almost professional skill.

The Club raised the money in only 10 months. Members collected £182, Mr. Curtis personally gave an additional £100, and during the afternoon a further £50 was raised.

The children themselves were given a gala meal by the club, while Bourne Produce gave them each a basket of fruit to take home.

Love and Marriage in 'Extra'

ALMOST everyone's interested in love and marriage. Almost everyone has their own favourite theories on how to make marriage work.

So almost everyone will probably want to enter the Happy Marriages competition announced in this month's "Extra," the paper published by Regional Pool Promotions for members of the Spastics League.

Qualities

Competitors have only to list the six qualities most important to a happy marriage and send them off, together with their name, address and membership number.

There is a first prize of £250, a second of £150, a third of £100 and a fourth £50. The winners of each of these prizes will also be able to nominate their local spastics group, or a registered charity of their own choice, to receive a similar sum.

Not a member? Then become one right away. It only costs a shilling.

Two events are a £114 booster

A flag day and house-to-house collection organised by the Brampton branch of the Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society has raised nearly £114.

BUY - A - BRICK SCHEME AIDS GAMES ANNEXE

THE GAMES and hobbies annexe being built at Ponds, the Spastics Society's residential centre at Seer Green, Bucks., is nearing completion and an official opening has been planned for October 5.

The project is being financed by The Friends of the Spastics at Ponds Home. They are also organising the opening celebrations, and after the official ceremony at 7 p.m. they are planning a dance and buffet.

Work on the new annexe began last June at the request of the spastics themselves. It will be spacious enough for residents to play wheelchair football, wheelchair table tennis, billiards and other sports. It will also provide a place for club meetings and a variety of hobbies, such as model railways.

Penny piles pushover

In pubs and clubs all over the country the pile of pennies on the bar has become an established feature. For the Spastics Society and local spastics groups, the pennies are a valuable source of income.

Not quite a record, but still one of the finest penny piles of all time was pushed over by comedian Jimmy Cooper at the Rock Inn, Leeds (see picture below).

The coins towered up to the bar ceiling and weighed 13 cwt. Later it took the combined efforts of three Westminster Bank clerks and two Spastics Society members to collect up the money and put it in bags. The total: £258 5s. 3d.

Congratulations and grateful thanks to landlord J. W. Ward and his wife, and Jimmy Roberts' Committee for their work in building up this magnificent sum.

Regulars of the Robin Hood Hotel in Middlesbrough have collected nearly £1,000 in aid of the Spastics since they decided to form their own society six years ago.

The climax to their latest effort (right) came when stage and TV stars Terry Scott and Huw went behind the bar to knock over a pile of pennies totalling about £17, and to receive a cheque for £75 from Mr. Walter Steel, chairman of the Robin Hood's spastics society, and the landlord Kenneth Little. A further £20 was handed over for the blind.



Car park man donated tips for a mini-bus

A NEW Spastics Association in North Argyll—the Oban and District Spastics Association—has just had delivery of a smart new minibus provided as a result of local fundraising effort. The Oban Round Table gave £500 towards the £1,500 cost, and donations included the tips from a car park attendant earned over the summer season.

All efforts are now being concentrated on the provision of a day centre costing £5,000 for which ground has been anonymously donated. The Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics are assisting in this project which it hopes will be completed by mid-summer next year.

The day the 'mini-bus' stay at Hawley



The £75
Heseltine,
Evening C

In only
for spastic
tomers, w
Each p
tomer who
receives a

Maidst
thanks to 'ger.



RECE
Centr
Zoo an
animal

Now
in the
animal
Bolling

As

es are a



lished feat-
income.

dian Tommy

ed efforts of
d put it into

erts and his

of Tees-side

Hugh Lloyd
que and cash
ndlord, Mr.

e £75, and the cash from the pennies, was then presented to Mr. Arthurine, chairman of Tees-side Spastics Society. (Picture by courtesy of the Gazette, Middlesbrough).

only six months regulars at The Bell in Bredhurst, Kent, collected £120 for spastics. This is a particularly fine tribute to Jim English, one of the customers, who does most of the collecting.

Each push-over is celebrated with a champagne evening, and the customer who wins one of the special competitions performs the ceremony and gets a bottle of champagne.

Midstone Spastics Society sent the picture (below) as a gesture of thanks to The Bell, and we are publishing it by courtesy of the Kent Messenger.



'zoo' came to Hawksworth Hall

RECENTLY the children of Hawksworth Hall, the Spastics Society's Assessment Centre in Leeds, visited Knaresborough and became deeply interested in the animals, particularly a bottle-fed lion cub.

Now the Zoo has come to Hawksworth—in the form of some life-size papier mache animals made by a group of senior pupils at Hall Girls' High School, Bradford.

As the picture shows, the children are finding their new 'pets' almost as lovable and certainly far more docile, than the real thing.

Shopping privilege

A SHOPPING spree during normal shopping hours has just been organised for a group of handicapped people by the Lewisham Association for the Handicapped. This—a rare privilege for many handicapped—will become a regular event if the organisers can get enough volunteers to help as escorts, and car owners willing to give transport. Willing? If so contact Mrs. Fry at 460 7947.

Three main aims . . .

THURROCK and District Spastics Society have three main aims: a vehicle for transporting spastics to and from functions and outings; a building with facilities for both therapy and social purposes; a seaside caravan so that handicapped people and their

Group plans to raise £20,000

MEMBERS of Darlington and District Spastics Society have a lot more money to raise before they can hope to build a new spastics centre in the town.

But their "Summer Fair" has brought them £130 nearer their plan.

"All the money will go towards the new centre," said the Chairman, Mr. T. F. Clark. "This will either be a work centre, or a children's day centre. We will have to consider the needs of local spastics and see which is the most urgent priority, when we have finally raised the necessary cash. We shall probably need £20,000 or more."

ROASTED OX WILL BE 'FIT FOR A KING'

AN exact copy of a barbecue used by King Henry VIII at Hampton Court will be used to roast a whole ox during a barbecue evening organised by Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society on September 21.

The barbecue, to be held at the Group's Ellerslie Court Holiday Home for Spastics will be the climax of an energetic programme devised by Southport members as their contribution to North Merseyside Spastics Week from September 16 to 22.

Meeting

It will begin on September 16 with a public meeting, chaired by the Mayor of Southport, at the town's Little Theatre. Tuesday and Thursday will be Open Days at Ellerslie Court and on Wednesday the Group will join with Crosby members in organising a show by the Beaver Club, the local handicapped swimmers club, at Crosby Baths. On Thursday the spastics riding class, sponsored by the Crosby Group, will be showing their paces at Formby.

Barbecue

Saturday's barbecue will be preceded by a sports and games afternoon for spastics from all the groups in the area.

The week will close with a service at St. James Church, Birkdale, whose vicar and congregation have given considerable help.

Day out for five once a fortnight

Sixth-formers from local schools may soon be taking pupils from the Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School in Tonbridge, Kent, on a day's outing once a fortnight.

It is hoped that five children may be taken out each fortnight, beginning next term.



Duchess supports centre

THIS is a red letter month for the Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society, for it marks the opening of their new children's centre in Pavilion Road, Worthing.

It will be named the Fitzalan-Howard Spastic Children's Day Centre in honour of the Duchess of Norfolk, who is President of the Society and has given her active support to the project.

At the annual meeting Miss J. M. Carter said that the centre would start with 12 children. There would be a teacher from the Education Dept. each day, a physio and speech therapist once a week and a nurse and two assistants.

Achievement

She added that the past year had been one of great achievement. The adult centre had 10 attending daily, and had had to be enlarged. The Society also hoped to have its own ambulance soon, thanks to local young people who had collected nearly £400.

The treasurer, Mr. S. F. Hopwood, said a record total of £5,500 had been raised during the year but the Chairman, Councillor F. Chapman, warned that an even greater effort would be needed next year with both a children's centre and an adult centre to maintain.

Star was in the audience

THE end of term concert at Westerlea Residential School for Spastics was held recently and in the audience to enjoy the show was popular Scottish TV personality Mr. Larry Marshall, Chairman of the Stars Organisation for Spastics (Scotland), and Miss Fay Lenore, the well-known singing stage personality, who is also a member of the organisation.

The acts included a gay tableau depicting the history of nearby Roslin Castle and a splendid circus scene which deserve special mention.

Best advantage

In each act the disabilities of Spastic children were put to best advantage for the portrayal of their parts. For example in the circus scene the tight-rope walker was portrayed by a young boy who can only manage to walk with his legs apart. It was, therefore, with considerable difficulty that he enacted the tight-rope walker's heel to toe steps, striving for balance and dressed in a tight one-piece white suit with sequins, the effect was most realistic.

SHOE CAKE SURPRISE

OOOOH! That was the unanimous verdict of youngsters at the Buckhurst Hill Clinic when they were given this splendid iced "shoe cake" as a surprise gift.

It was sent in by Mrs. Winnifred Pleasance of Waverly Road, South Woodford, after it had won a prize in a local competition.

The clinic is run by Epping Forest and District Spastics Society.

(Picture by courtesy of L. Brahom, Grove Green Road, Leytonstone).



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN . MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN . MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN .

A NEW PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION

IT had become obvious just about the time when I was elected Chairman in May 1966 that the Society had reached a crossroads. A number of factors pointed to this. There was our extremely rapid growth and an increasingly long list of permanent responsibilities. Measured against this was a falling income following the Central Government's decision to impose additional betting duty on the football pool from which, as you know, we receive a substantial percentage of our income.

We were moving from a growth period of dramatic and spectacular achievement to one of further consolidation and maturity. In addition, therefore, to the normal duties of Chairmanship I had a special task to perform: to conduct with my colleagues on the Executive Committee a thorough and searching review of our organisation at all levels, within and without, in a determined effort to improve our teamwork and productivity, thus making the most of our existing resources and future anticipated income.

The first fruits of this work have already been seen in various directions. There was an intensive review of the central administration and a reshaping of certain departments. Next, we turned our attention to re-planning the regional organisation on a more efficient basis.

There have been a number of other moves, all aimed at bringing about a better understanding between the groups and the central body — regional conferences and a number of other meetings on different levels. Professional staff have



Mr. W. A. Burn.

offered help, advice and support to groups on various subjects, notably the common and urgent problem of fund-raising. Generally there has been a marked improvement in communication and consultation.

A further important step is our recent decision to establish a Regional Advisory Panel comprising the Chairmen of all the Regional Advisory Committees

and some representatives nominated by the Executive. The new Panel will have direct access to the Executive, and will also work closely with the other committees of the Society. I believe that it will therefore have a very valuable contribution to make to the way in which our affairs are conducted.

Five years

Five years have passed since the amalgamation of The National Spastics Society and the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics. It is certainly not too early to take a look at some of the decisions then made to see if they have stood the test of time.

A case in point is the Consultative Council which was introduced as a representative body not to be involved in direction and management, but to be used as a sounding board by the Executive Committee when requiring advice on important matters of policy. The Council has met regularly since its inception and we are exceedingly grateful to the members for the time they have given on many Sundays to attend these sessions. It was no secret, however, after the Council had held a number of meetings, that doubts about its effectiveness were beginning to arise in the minds of some mem-

bers. In view of these misgivings the Council, at a meeting last year, reviewed its work over the years and indulged in some self-examination. It was quite clear that many members felt that it was not making the type of contribution which was originally anticipated. The possibility of the disbanding of the Council was raised, and the view was expressed that the need for consultation should not be overlooked and the consultation machinery of the Society should be strengthened in other ways.

Disbanded

The fact is that, side by side with the Consultative Council, many additional forms of consultation have been introduced and used with success while others have been significantly improved during past years. There is also our recent decision, to which I have already referred, to set up a Regional Advisory Panel. Taking these matters into consideration and also the feelings expressed within the Council itself, the Executive Committee have decided to recommend to the Members of the Society that the Consultative Council be disbanded. At the same time the Executive suggests that its own title be changed to Executive Council, and conscious of the need to improve communica-

tion and develop discussion, recommends that its membership is increased from 12 to 15 persons.

These last two recommendations alone call for a number of amendments in The Memorandum and Articles of Association and Standing Orders. There are other changes recommended which I need not deal with at this initial stage except to mention a proposed change in the nomination procedure for the Executive, which was previously channelled through the Consultative Council. We are now recommending a simple procedure whereby candidates must have their nominations signed by three members and must themselves confirm in writing, as previously, that they are willing to become members of the Society if elected.

Willing

While referring to this I should like to comment on the suggestion which is occasionally made that each Region should be allowed to appoint its chosen delegate(s) to represent it on the Executive Committee. The Executive, however, has discussed this and is convinced that asking all members to make their choice from the full list of available candidates is not only basically more democratic, but also ensures that those elected come to their responsibilities as free agents able to take a national view, and to make decisions in the best interests of the Society as a whole.

Any changes in a Constitution bring innumerable other adjustments and we have therefore decided that the simplest way is to issue reprints of the revised Memorandum and New Articles of Association incorporating all the proposed amendments. Full details will, of course, be circulated early in October with the notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting.

This statement to Spastics News readers is in the nature of an advance notification so that all Groups can be brought into the picture early. I hope you will find it helpful and that we shall have a full attendance at this very important meeting.

W. A. Burn,

Chairman.

DIARY DATES

TWO IMPORTANT dates for members in the North West Region: The Manchester Regional Conference and A.G.M. will be held on Saturday, October 26, at Lancaster Industrial Centre — starting at 10.30 a.m. and ending at about 4.30 p.m.

Merseyside and North Wales A.G.M. and Conference will take place on Saturday, 19th October, at the Catholic Chaplaincy to the University. Times as above.

Double six holiday

NEWCASTLE group now has two six-berth holiday caravans at Whitley Bay, Northumberland. Each caravan cost over £770.

One was bought with money left to the Newcastle Parents Association in the will of Bobby Rutter, a local spastic who died in March 1967. The other

was bought with money given to the Newcastle Co-op Spastic Account. This Co-op store number is used by hundreds of people in Newcastle and the account grows rapidly.

Families with a spastic member who use the caravans pay a minimum of £1 a week, but many people pay more.



Actress Eileen Derbyshire — better known as Miss Nugent, of Coronation Street — recently conducted the official opening ceremony at the Manchester Spastics Card Centre.

"Miss Nugent" travelled by stagecoach from Stockport to the Market Centre, Brown Street, Manchester, where she signed autographs and sold some early Christmas Cards. Manchester and District Spastics Society look forward to achieving a bumper record in the sale of Christmas Cards this year.

REFEREE ENGAGED

Christine McMillan (aged 20) and Terry Barton (19) have recently announced their engagement. Terry has just completed a course of Football Refereeing and passed the qualifying examination. He hopes to be able to referee some football matches when he moves to Christine's home town of Bedford in the near future. Christine and Terry hope to marry in September, 1969.

Five groups in Merseyside Week

FIVE Groups will be taking part in the North Merseyside week from September 16 to 22 — Southport, Warrington, Widnes and Liverpool. There are public events being organised every day by one group or the other.

Kicking off the week will be a public meeting, film show and talk in Southport, a film show and talk at Crosby, a concert at the Widnes group's club and cavern show organised by the Liverpool society. Warrington centre will be open to the public from Monday to Wednesday.

Highlights of the week include a riding and swimming display run by Southport and

Crosby group, a fashion show at Widnes, a sports and barbecue in Southport and variety show at Liverpool.

There will also be demonstrations by home workers at the Ellerslie Court holiday home, dances, coffee evenings, exhibitions, church services, concerts, meeting and probably a sponsored walk.

A LIVELY INTEREST

WEST Bromwich and District Spastics Society are mourning the death of Mr. W. H. L. Harrison, their Patron since the Society was started in 1965.

Mr. Harrison, a well-known businessman in Midlands industry and Chairman of Walsall F.C., maintained a lively sympathetic interest in the needs of spastics, particularly children. He also supported many other local charities.

He will be sadly missed in West Bromwich, especially by the spastics and their families who, through "Spastics News," extend their deep sympathy to his widow and son.



Eighteen spastic Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts became V.I.P.'s for the day when members of the Southend East Guides' Division and the Extension Girl Guides' Association decided to organise a special treat for them.

The children, all from Notley Spastics Centre, were taken to the beach and for walks along the sea front in the morning. In the afternoon they were given a gala tea and a pile of presents. (Southend Standard picture).

A winter holiday in the sun?

We are now open all the year, so why not come to

BEXHILL

for a

WINTER HOLIDAY

and enjoy our heated Swimming Pool, fine Chef's Cooking, Games Room, TV Lounge . . . and so on.

PARENTS WITH CHILD/CHILDREN, AND BLOCK BOOKINGS (children with escorts) ALSO WELCOME.

Terms Children £5 5 0 weekly
Adults £10 10 0 weekly
Escorts to be arranged

Colwall Court Holiday Hotel

Bexhill-on-Sea

Bexhill 1491

After a stroke and a heart attack it was 'Twenty Questions' that rejuvenated a busy man's confidence. Therese Appelby interviews Kenneth Horne . . .

Take it easy? That's impossible!

GAY, CHARMING, debonair Kenneth Horne greets you as warmly as an old friend — even though he knows you will be taking up time that to him is his most valuable commodity.

For, despite his physical setbacks, he is still one of the busiest men in show business.

He lives with his wife in a comfortable, gracious flat in Kensington, near enough to the centre of London to be at hand for the many calls made on him. When he can spare the time hides out in a cottage in the country.

He accepts philosophically the stroke he had some twelve years ago and a heart attack he had eighteen months ago, only regretting a little ruefully that the later attack prevents him taking exercises which would improve his physique.

I ASKED HIM HOW HE HAD THE STROKE.

"I was in bed asleep at the time," he said. "When I woke up in the morning I found my left arm and side seemed to have gone to sleep."

WHAT DO YOU THINK BROUGHT IT ON?

"Overwork. I was chairman and managing director of a company and I was very worried about it. It was the worry of that rather than the physical strain of dashing from A to B."

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO DEVELOP?

"About 36 hours. My wife called my own doctor and I was moved straight into a nursing home."

WHAT WERE THE SYMPTOMS?

"I was completely paralysed

in my left side for a couple of months. No movement of any sort at all. My voice was slightly affected."

WHAT TREATMENT DID YOU HAVE?

"Physiotherapy. Speech therapy and some special treatment called Kaser-Kabot which means when you do get your movement back you yourself do all the work and the physiotherapist guides you. For instance, if the physio makes you pull your arm up and it really hurts and you say so, she makes you do that extra bit, so that you do all the work."

HOW LONG WERE YOU HELPLESS?

"I was completely incapacitated for two months before anything started moving. Then I saw my first finger of my left hand move about an eighth of an inch. My feeling was one of tremendous elation that I could move at all. Then gradually things moved bit by bit. I came back from the nursing home after two and a half months and it was about six months before I did anything."

WHAT WAS THE FIRST WORK YOU DID?

"The first thing I did was to go back as chairman of Twenty Questions. It gave me back my confidence. Twenty-six weeks of it. The next thing I did was 'Beyond Our Ken' in about

February of the following year."

HAVE YOU FULLY RECOVERED NOW?

"No, I never will fully recover. I got very well after about a year or eighteen months — about 90 per cent fit. But I think one tends to go back a bit."

HOW DO YOU MEAN?

"Well, I got to the stage when I could play a shot or two and walk round nine holes of the golf course. Now I don't like walking more than a hundred yards. Then, of course, about eighteen months ago I had a heart attack."

HOW DID THAT AFFECT YOU?

"I felt really fed up. I had to stay in bed for about three weeks because after having had one of those the doctor doesn't allow you to do physical things which make the effect of the stroke better so the left arm and leg tends to get worse."

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

"Well, you know, the doctors and specialists are very interesting because they say you must plan your life better. You must only undertake a certain amount of work. You must not do two or three days' work consecutively. It is impossible to behave like that. You say to

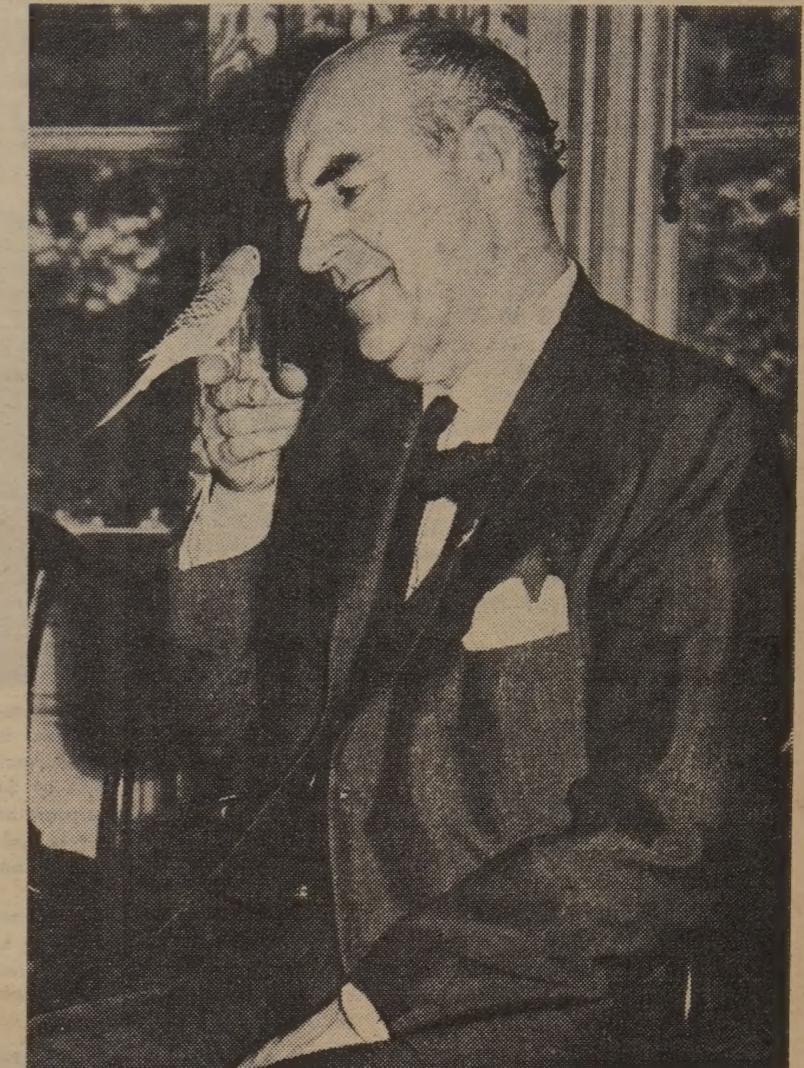
the producers of course I am going to do it otherwise you don't pay the rent. At the moment I am doing exactly what the doctors don't want me to do which is about six days work in every five. There's Twenty Questions, another broadcast, then I have to rehearse for my own show 'Horn of Plenty.' And then I start doing another radio World Quiz which is a live radio quiz between England, Australia, New Zealand and Canada and I am in the chair in London."

"Then 'Round the Horn' comes back on the 9th March. And I am also doing a quiz for Southern Television called Celebrity Challenge."

"It is a most extraordinary thing. The services of Horne have never been so much in demand. The producers must be mad."

WHO WAS YOUR GREATEST HELP DURING YOUR ILLNESS?

"This is a difficult question to answer because help can be defined in so many ways. For comfort, of course, it was my wife. But with this sort of business it is the physiotherapist



who really helps. I still have a physio called Joe.

He did a lot of good by increasing the circulation. I still have him — as far as possible for two sessions a week.

"My speech was affected quite a little bit. I was very troubled of course because of my work and even now as the day wears on I have to be careful to speak very clearly. But I had a lot of sessions with the speech therapist. I spent a lot of time sucking up cigarette papers with straws. But I did a lot of exercising of the muscles and then I had a marvellous Canadian woman who used to

push tea spoons down my throat to get the muscles of the tongue going. All of which seemed to help and here I am now with a voice, when it is not too tired, back to normal."

HOW DID YOU COME INTO SHOW BUSINESS?

"It was during the war when I was in the R.A.F. My unit was instructed by the Air Ministry to get up a show which was going to be broadcast. Since none of the officers could do anything my commanding officer put a pin in the list of officers. My name came up and he said, 'Get up a show for a thing called radio.' And that's how it started."

VISITORS GOT THE MESSAGE . . .

MEMBERS of Wycombe and District Spastics Society decided on a target of £200 when

they organised a fete at Tylers Green, Bucks. They made it, with £54 to spare, after the event had been opened by radio and TV star Don Moss, himself a member of the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

Mr. Moss pointed out that 14 spastic children received day care at the Tylers Green Centre. It cost £195 a year to keep each one of them there, and of that the Wycombe Group had to find £110.

Great support

Visitors got the message and there was great support for a "bowl for a pig" stall — with a 12lb. tin of ham instead of a pig! — A Score a Goal competition run by members of Hughenden Rangers Football Club and a cage-bird show by Capt. and Mrs. J. Wallace of Hazlemere. Newlands Park Teacher Training College gave a gym display and Mrs. Bula Brazil and Mrs. Doris Maron lent ponies to give rides to children.

FETES BOOST FOR FUNDS

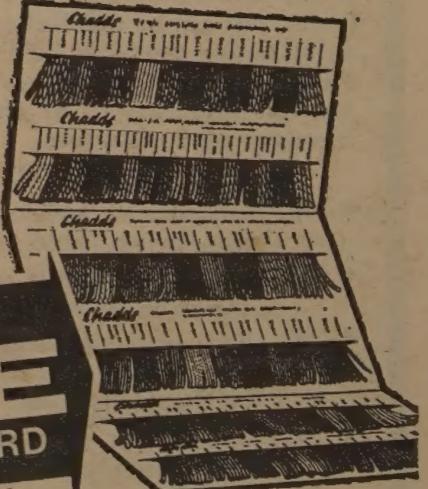
Over the summer season fetes in the Scottish Borders, Lanarkshire, Dundee and Edinburgh have raised over £4,362. Office reports that these sums were only made possible by the tremendous work and enthusiasm of the local parents associations.

CHADDS HELP KNITTERS TO BEAT RISING COSTS —

• NO INCREASE IN PRICES!
• SAME HIGH QUALITY!
• PLUS GREEN SHIELD STAMPS!

STILL
from only
1/-
per oz.

SEND FOR THIS
FREE
GIANT SIZE CARD



SUPER QUALITY WOOLS

* and remember our money-back guarantee is your safeguard

FREE! Please send me without obligation 200 wool samples. I enclose 4d stamp for post & packing.

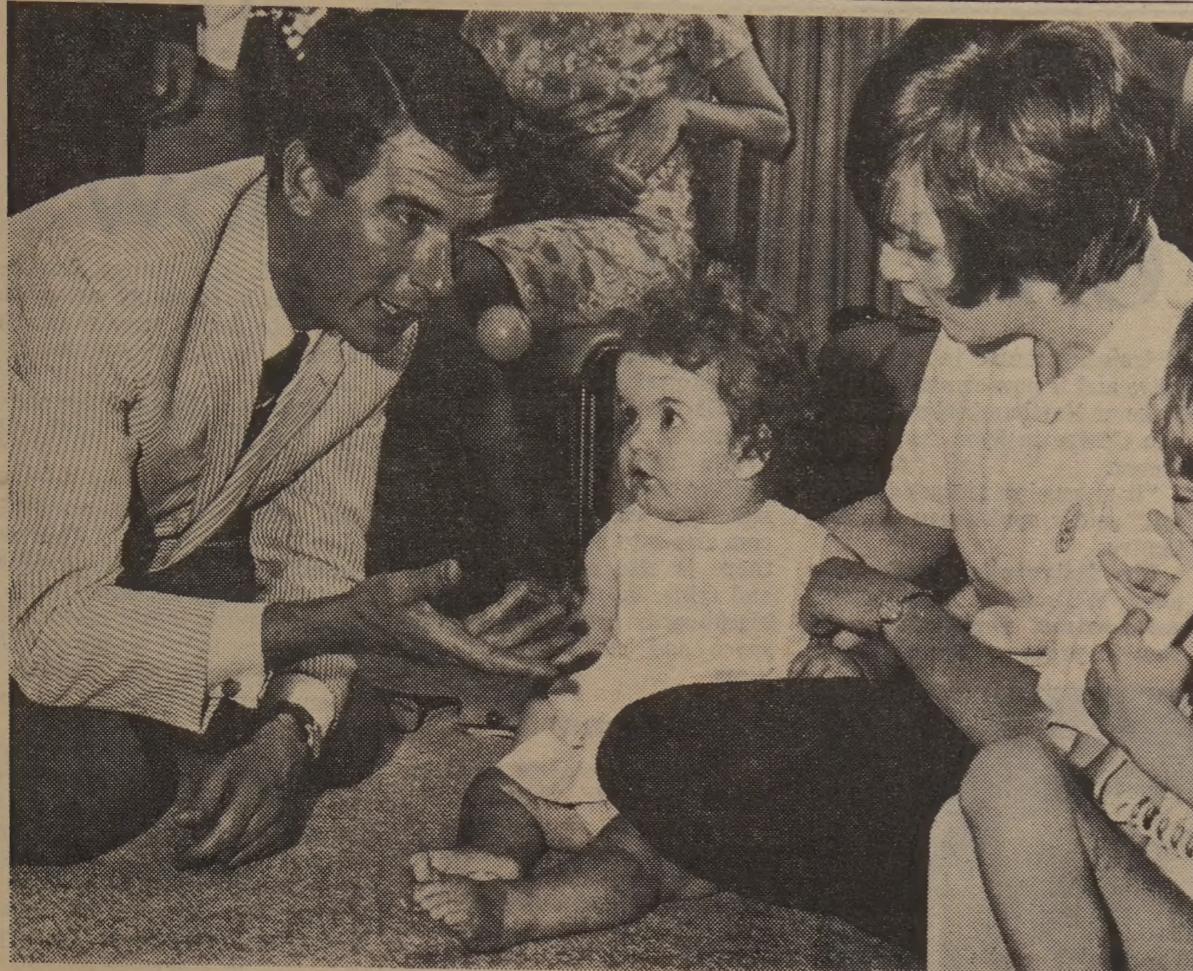
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

To CHADDS LTD. (Dept. R.I.) LOWESTOFT



Four years ago the Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics Group presented an ambulance to The Mount, the Spastics Society's Family Help Unit in Nottingham. But after 55,000 miles the Friends decided it was time the old vehicle had a rest, and they have just spent £1,400 on a replacement. It was officially handed over to The Mount by The Duke of Rutland, President of the Group, who is seen here making his presentation speech.

Photo: G. J. H. / N. & D. F. S. G.



Making friends

Making young friends seems to come easy to S.O.S. Chairman Leslie Crowther. And here's how he does it! Leslie was pictured after he had opened the new Bath Spastics Treatment Centre recently. Still, with five children of his own, he had plenty of chance to practice.

(Photo by courtesy of the Bristol Evening Post).

New aims, policies and a full complement

Ilford, Romford and District Spastics Association, which recently worked out entirely new aims and policies, has now appointed a full complement of officers.

They are: Chairman, Mr. C. Crawshaw of 51 Cowley Road, Ilford, Essex; Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. Rowland of 23 Heather Gardens, Romford, Essex; Treasurer, Mr. T. Nichols of 33

Chester Road, Chigwell; Secretary, Mr. G. Bews of 146 Lansdowne Road, Seven Kings, Essex; Transport, Mr. C. Wren; Social Secretary, Mrs. B. Shearman; Welfare Secretary, Mrs. P. Oakley; Members Secretary, Mrs. P. Haldon; Collection Organiser, Mrs. K. Farrell.

The Trustees of the Centre are Messrs. C. Crawshaw, W. Rowland and B. Oakley.

Centre 'an encouraging example'

THE new centre for handicapped people, to be opened soon in Huddersfield, was an encouraging example of Local Authority support, said Group Capt. W. A. L. Davis, Senior Regional Officer of the North-East Region of The Spastics Society when he spoke at the annual meeting of the Huddersfield and District Group.

The treasurer, Mr. C. Davies, reported an increase in donations and, following the rearrangement of investments under brokers' advice, a rise in the income from dividends. However, the deficit on the Group's centre for spastics was a major drain on resources and there were likely to be heavy demands on Group assets when the new civic facilities for the disabled became available.

The Mayor of Huddersfield, Ald. T. P. Cliffe, is President of the Group and presided over the meeting.

SEASIDE GENEROSITY —

When more than forty Teesside spastics went on their annual outing to Whitley Bay, they had lunch at the Casino Restaurant. The meal cost the organisers 5s 6d for each adult and 3s 6d per child, but after lunch the cafe owners returned half a crown to each spastic.

"A GREAT SUCCESS" was the verdict of the Essex groups when they met recently to consider the results of their pilot Essex Spastics Week held earlier this year.

All groups and national centres in the area took part in the week and between them made over £4,000 profit by their efforts. Fêtes, football matches, door-knock schemes, coffee mornings, jumble sales — all played their part in raising this total.

Co-operative

From the publicity viewpoint also, Essex Spastics Week was a notable success. Most of the local newspapers in the area were very co-operative, printed many stories about the Week and carried a number of photographs of events. In addition 20,000 specially printed booklets were distributed along with car stickers and posters.

Members agreed that fund-raising and publicity were not the only reasons for holding the Week. Just as important was the need to learn valuable lessons for National Spastics Week next year.

The Essex groups are not

BARBARA'S BIRTHDAY TREAT

Congratulations to Miss Barbara Bunkle, a spastic member of Mansfield and District Friends of spastics, who has just celebrated her 21st birthday. The Group organised a special party to celebrate.

Other recent social events organised by the Group have included a coach trip to Scarborough with lunch and high tea, an outing to a cycle scramble and a trip to the Steam Traction Rally organised in aid of Lincolnshire spastics.

And now — "Junior News"

A MESSAGE FROM LESLIE CROWTHER

Dear Children

THERE is something special about this issue of "Spastics News" because a children's column is being included for the very first time. And in this first column all we're asking for is your advice. What sort of column will it be? What features do we plan to have? Will there be competitions? Or badges? Well, the answer depends on what YOU would like. We want this space to be filled with the things YOU find most interesting, and I hope you'll drop us a line in the next few weeks with your suggestions on how we can get together to make this the best children's column in the country.

Meanwhile you might like to know how the children of many of Britain's best-known film, stage and TV stars have been spending their time lately; they've been busy forming a junior branch of the Stars Organisation for Spastics (usually known as the S.O.S.) and in the next few months they'll be thinking up all sorts of ways in which they can raise money to help spastic children.

You've probably heard of the senior S.O.S. already. I'm lucky enough to be chairman of it this year, and we have dozens and dozens of famous members like David Jacobs, Simon Dee, Harry Secombe, Vera Lynn, Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton — well, you name the star and you can be pretty sure they're in the S.O.S. We've already managed to build two centres for spastics and are now planning our third. It's hard work, but we get a lot of fun out of it too, and we're delighted that our own children have now decided to help as well.

Perhaps you'd like to have a similar sort of club. If so, let us know and we might be able to form one for all the young readers of "Spastics News."

I hope you'll like this new feature, and I certainly hope you'll give us your ideas and suggestions.

Yours Leslie Crowther

Pupils' wool raised £80

Sheer woolgathering has resulted in £80 for the High Wycombe and District Spastics Society.

The money was raised by Castlefield Junior School after the pupils had gathered odd scraps of wool. Between them they filled 45 sacks, then sold them in aid of the Society.

The cheque was presented after a short service at the School. Pupils also gave the Society woollen blankets which they had made themselves, and these will be used in the Society's day-care centre at Tyers Green.

THANKS TO THE 'TEN'

TEN LOCAL children decided to help the Central Middlesex Spastics Society by organising a fete in one of their gardens. They raised £2 8s. 8d., and Central Middlesex members are so grateful they have asked if we would thank each one personally. So thank you, Meg Molina, Wendy and Janet Rowland, Susan Brenan, Susan Sparrow, Brenda Kreisher, Caroline Dunlop, Denise Carter and Julie Brendon.



Yes, up we go, says Pierre the Clown as he sits ON the wheel of his old-fashioned model "T" Ford. Pierre gets plenty of laughs at the circus when the car falls to bits with plenty of crashes and bangs. You'll be hearing quite a bit from Pierre, and to start off there's a special cooking article (see right) just for you — and that means boys as well as girls.



FROM AN ICE-CREAM SHOP BUY ENOUGH VANILLA ICE CREAM FOR TWO PEOPLE — SEE IF YOU CAN GET IT IN THE BALL-SHAPE YOU OFTEN SEE IN CORNETS.

Cooking with Pierre the Clown

HOW TO MAKE PEARS HELENA

LIKE THIS! BUY FOUR OF THESE — THEY CAN BE SMALL IF YOU LIKE. PLACE IN TWO GLASS DISHES.



BREAK A 6d BAR OF MILK CHOCOLATE INTO SQUARES. HEAT IT IN A SAUCEPAN WITH ABOUT TWO TABLESPOONS OF TOP OF THE MILK.



PEEL A NICE JUICY PEAR. CUT IT IN HALVES AND REMOVE CORE.

PUSH A HALF PEAR INTO EACH DISH OF ICE-CREAM.



POUR THE HOT CHOCOLATE SAUCE ON TOP. EAT IMMEDIATELY!!

New face on the staff . . .

MISS Margaret McLeod has joined the staff at Westerlea School for Spastics, Edinburgh, as Nursing Sister in Charge. Fair-haired Miss McLeod, who hails from Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, has already won the affection of the resident and day pupils of Westerlea School in the short space of time since she started her duties with the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics.

Good wishes

Recently Miss Mary E. Watson, for thirteen years Sister in Charge at Westerlea, left the School with all the good wishes of staff and pupils for her forthcoming marriage. A sturdy garden swing was presented by Miss Watson to the School for the use of the pupils. This was a wonderful gesture from a former member of staff who will remain a very dear friend.

Snap Up The Half-Crowns for Spastics — and Get a Free Film for Yourself

ALMOST EVERYBODY takes holiday snaps, and it can become quite expensive, but now everyone can help spastics and at the same time help themselves to a free film, without paying a halfpenny more than they would normally pay for developing and printing.

HOW THE SCHEME WORKS

- * 1. Special envelopes in containers of 50 are being placed in shops throughout the country and are also available from the Appeals Division, at 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.
- * 2. When you have completed your present colour or black and white film, put it into one of these special envelopes together with a postal order or cheque for the cost of developing and printing post it to the address which is printed on the envelope.
- * 3. In a few days time you will receive your tip-top quality prints and negatives together with A NEW KODAK FILM either colour or black and white of the size you sent.
- * 4. You will also receive another envelope in which to post the next exposed film, and so on.

The first time you take advantage of this service, The Spastics Society will receive 2/6d. for a colour film, 1/3d. for a black and white, and for every subsequent film 1/-d. If you have a shop other than a chemist's or photographic dealer, you can be supplied on request to the Society with an attractive container holding 50 envelopes to place on the counter for the convenience of your customers. If not, you can help spastics by distributing envelopes to your friends or work colleagues.

NOTE THESE POINTS

- * 1. Only use the envelopes with the Spastics Society's name printed on the corner.
- * 2. The standard cost of developing and printing is shown on the back of the envelope.
- * 3. Both colour films and black and white films for prints can be developed and printed, but this does NOT apply to colour transparencies.
- * 4. You will be credited with the cost of any snaps that cannot be printed.

Please send off the coupon below and you will be prepared for your holiday snaps.

TO

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, APPEALS,
THE SPASTICS SOCIETY, 12 Park Crescent,
London, W.1.

Please send special envelopes for my friends and myself in which to post snapshot films for developing and printing

OR (Cross out one of these requests)

Please send me a free container with 100 special envelopes to put on my shop counter.

NAME (Block Letters)

ADDRESS



The staff of Sherrards, the Spastics Society's Training Centre in Old Welwyn, Herts, transformed themselves into the Girls of St. Trinians for the rag procession organised by the Mid-Herts College of Further Education.

Later the Principal of Sherrards, Mr. V. King, refused to identify himself in our picture, though we're offering no prizes for guessing . . . (Welwyn Times)

'VALUABLE INCOME' FROM STAMPS

THE Spastics Society last year had to spend nearly £1m. on the day-to-day maintenance of its centres. This was in addition to the money required for building and equipping them in the first place, said Dr. D. E. Wheeler, Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society, when he spoke at the Official Opening of the new Spastics Treatment Unit in the grounds of Manor Hospital, Bath.

"Sometimes the Society is accused of being unreasonably aggressive in its efforts to raise money," he declared. "Christmas stamps are perhaps one example, causing irritation to a few of the people who receive them. None the less, they provide us with a net income of some £75,000, and this can make all the difference in the world to the welfare and care of a number of spastics.

"It is all too readily assumed today that the State not only will, but must, make provision for everyone, and there is a danger that people will think a charity no longer has a place in the so-called Welfare State in

which we are supposed to be living.

Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, said the new unit had cost the Society and the Bath Spastics Group £17,000 to build, and the South Western Regional Hospital Board had undertaken to meet its running costs after the first 18 months.

"But I hope the Board will take into account the sacrifices the Society is making here when it considers our other activities within its region," declared Mr. Loring. "For example, at Plymouth we have a Family Help Unit, where the annual cost to the Society of physio and speech therapy is about £8,000, and at the moment we receive only a very small contribution from the Board. More than £7,000 has to be found by the Spastics Society and its local supporters.

In Exeter

"A similar position exists in Exeter, where at a cost of more than £5,000 a year services are being provided by the local all from the National Health

Parents ran a stall in Petticoat Lane

THE Plymouth Spastics Centre was invited by Sutton Harbour Regatta Committee to run a jumble and white elephant stall in their Petticoat Lane Market, operating on the quay at the Barbican, Plymouth, for a week. Parents and friends agreed to man the stall and every afternoon, in beautiful sunny weather, sold, cajoled and bargained with large crowds, making over £130.

Members of the Plymouth C.P. Association and some of the children's parents worked extremely hard over this effort, sorting the jumble, pricing white elephants, setting up the stall each afternoon, selling, packing up the stall at night and preparing goods for the next day.

The Centre was given good publicity and members had

Money making plans are being laid

THE EARL OF Ancaster has agreed to be patron of the Lincolnshire week (September 22 to 28). Six groups are involved — Boston, Grantham, Scunthorpe, South Humberside, Stamford and Lincoln.

Members of the Scunthorpe group will be going from door to door throughout the week collecting and publicising the work of the Society and Stamford group have organised a flag day on the final day.

Boston group have a stall at the market one day and Grantham are organising an intriguing 'wine and wig' evening.

Autumn fayres at Stamford and South Humberside give early Christmas shoppers their first chance of the year to pick up bargains and arrangements are in hand for a sponsored walk.

TIM'S TABLE

The Tiny Tim Play Centre for Handicapped Children at North Kensington, has just celebrated its 3rd Anniversary with a Birthday Open Day. Fourteen children with their Mothers, sat down to a laden table completed with a home-made Birthday cake.

Aids and Appliances

by N. D. B. ELWES

THE "NEW PERPHECTO"

Miss Merle Davies shows the "New Perphecto" long-handled brush and separate long-handled dustpan. The pan stands up unsupported and the set can be obtained from Messrs. Medor (London) Ltd., 80 Copenhagen Street, Caledonian Road, N.1. Costs 30/-.

'CREMONA' COT BY LERNER BROS.

Our fond "Mama" (status assumed for modelling purposes only) gazes tenderly at her offspring in a cot with plastic end panels and nylon net sides by Lerner Bros., Endeavour House, North Circular Road, Hendon, N.W.2. It measures 4ft. 4in. x 2ft. and costs £13 19s. 6d.

All enquiries on aids and appliances to Information Clerk, 16, Fitzroy Square, W.1.



HOME TEACHER LONDON AREA

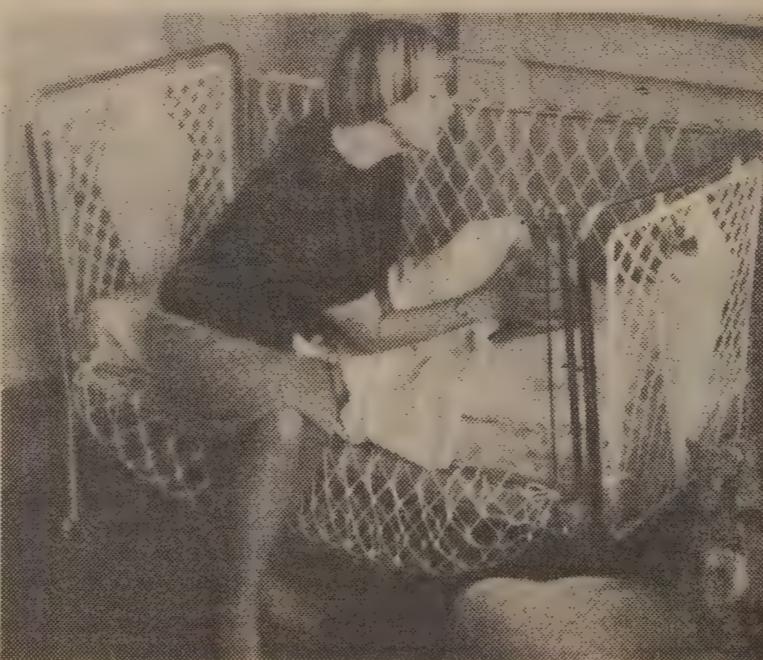
A qualified teacher holding a diploma for teaching physically handicapped children, with considerable experience of both physically and mentally handicapped children, is available for home teaching work. Fees negotiated. Please contact: Miss K. Doyle, 194 Grove End Gardens, St. John's Wood, N.W.8 (Tel. 01 286 2905).

FOR SALE

Everest and Jennings sleigh ride unit, fits any size E.J. chair; £65 o.n.o. Apply to:

Mrs. B. C. Hick,
62 The Esplanade,
Sterte, Poole, Dorset.
Phone: Poole 3510

YOUNG MAN fully employed, requires bed, breakfast and evening meal. Reasonable rent; near Sloane Square, London. — Anscombe, 16 Argyll Ave., Westbrook, Margate.



BURSTON OLD RECTORY NURSING HOME BURSTON DISS NORFOLK

Tel. DICKLEBOROUGH 246.

A Nursing Home for short term or permanent care of physically and mentally handicapped boys and girls up to the age of 17 years

QUALIFIED STAFF — SUITABLE THERAPIES

Staff ratio — One to two residents.

Registration applied for under the Public Health Act 1936

and Nursing Homes Act 1963.

Brochure on request to: The Secretary.

Our Royal Patron

**Her Royal Highness Princess Marina
Duchess of Kent**

IN March, 1958, Her Royal Highness Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, became Royal Patron of the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics. From that moment, until her death just over 10 years later, she maintained the closest interest in spastic men, women and children, and the work being done to help them.

Princess Marina was not content to be just a Patron on paper. Her support was of the warmest and most practical kind, and during her years of patronage—a patronage that was continued when the Council merged with the National Spastics Society in 1963 to become the Spastics Society—she travelled many hundreds of miles visiting spastics, opening several of The Spastics Society's most important centres, and never missing an opportunity to see for herself the work developments in the field of cerebral palsy.

The Human Touch

She will always be remembered in this Society as the Princess with the human touch. At Christmas she never failed to send her greetings and from time to time, in addition to her tireless diary programme for the Society, she would send in her own donation.

Her last engagement for the Society was in May this year when, gaily dressed in geranium red, she flew to Southampton to perform the Official Opening of the new Spastics Centre there. She often went to Society openings by 'plane. At other times she went, more conventionally, by car. But either way she was always on time, always unreservedly interested and always anxious that ceremony be cut to a minimum so she could have more time for looking around.

Special souvenir

Meldreth Training School has a special souvenir to treasure. For, after officially opening the School near the end of last year, she planted a little cherry tree outside one of the children's houses. The children were ecstatic, and all of them gathered together in the courtyard to give her one of the most rousing Royal send-offs ever.

Some of her visits to our centres were private. She wanted to have discussions with the staff, and informal chats with spastics themselves on their hopes and their problems.

Typical of her interest was her telephone call one day to Ponds, the Society's adults residential home in Buckinghamshire.

"I have a free afternoon tomorrow, and I'd love to come and visit you. May I?" she asked.

'One of the Family'

She loved Ponds. She went there at least three times and, as she remarked on one occasion, she "felt she was really one of the Family there."

The Princess knew what suffering meant. As a member of the Greek Royal Family she twice underwent exile, in 1917 and again in 1922; two of her relatives were assassinated; she was widowed after only eight years of marriage and she suffered a number of illnesses.

This almost certainly gave her such deep concern and interest in The Spastics Society, and also in hospitals, nursing and the general welfare of people in all walks of life.



Her Royal Highness Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent. This beautiful study, taken by Cecil Beaton in a sunlit garden, was one of the Princess's own personal favourites of all the pictures taken of her in recent years.

Throughout these pages are tributes from many people who had met Princess Marina over the years. But here we print one from a man who speaks for spastics everywhere—the Chairman of The Spastics Society, Mr. W. A. Burn.

'... eager to know how each was being helped'

ALL of us in The Spastics Society, and spastics and their families everywhere, will feel that in the death of Princess Marina we have lost a true friend.

The value of that friendship, and of her 20 years' unswerving support of our cause, cannot adequately be described in words, and her tragically sudden death is a grief we shall feel for many years to come.

She was not only Patron of The Spastics Society in the formal sense, but an active member of the

growing family all over the country who are doing something positive about spastics.

For us, perhaps, the most memorable thing about her was her deep interest in each of the many hundreds of spastics she met during her long and dedicated service to this Society. On numerous occasions I have known her to far exceed her time schedule as she talked to spastic children or adults, absorbing herself in their opinions and problems, and always eager to know how

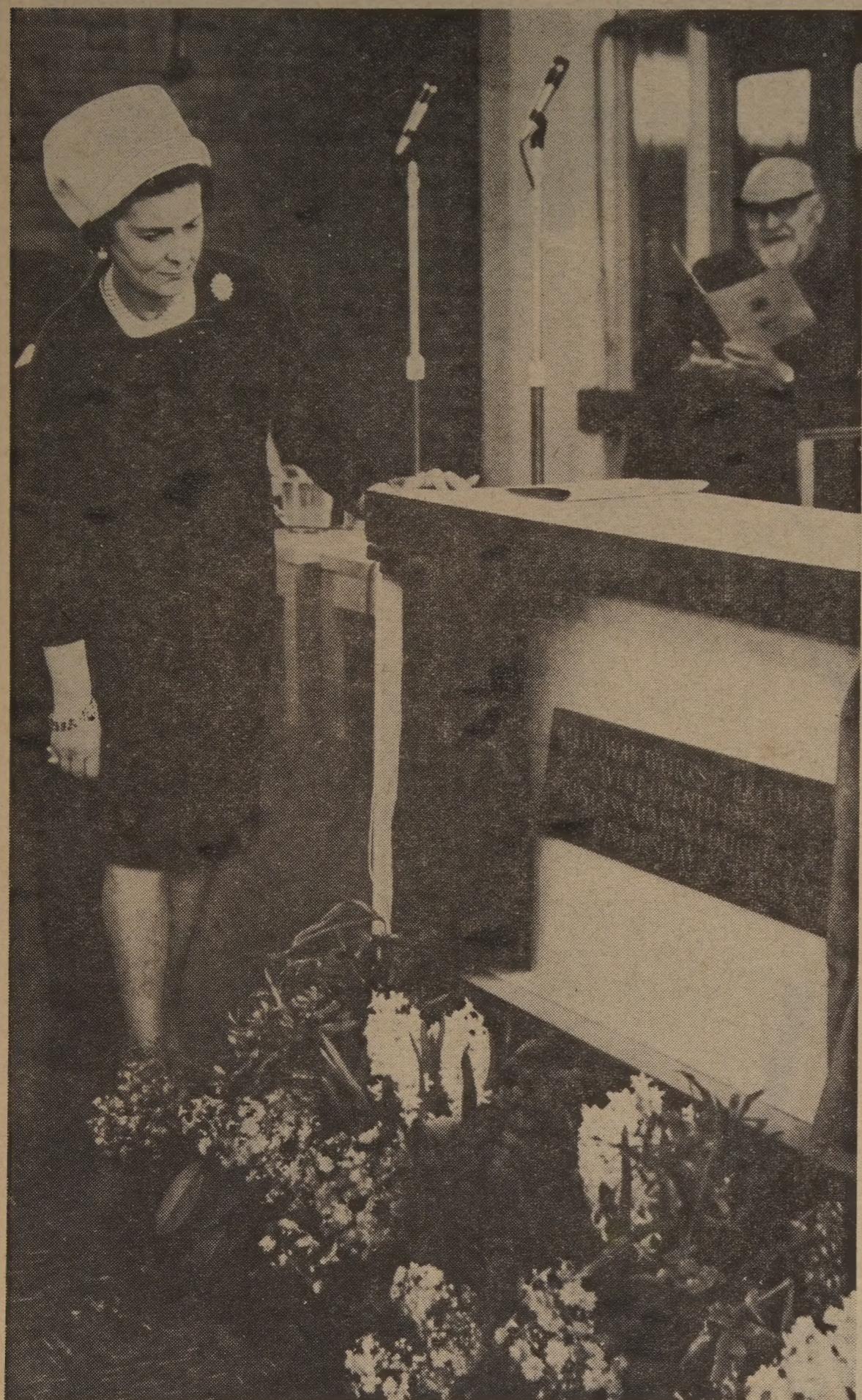
each one was being helped.

It was comforting to those of us who shared the responsibility of Official Openings to know that Princess Marina herself always had a personal feeling of being a little nervous before each opening began. It was by sharing our nervousness with her that this feeling was jointly overcome, and every opening went smoothly and was outstandingly successful. If, as sometimes happened, someone said or did the wrong thing, Princess Marina immediately set

that person at rest and turned the incident to advantage.

She combined high office with dignity and charm, and was both respected and loved by all of us who knew her. Life without her will never be quite the same again.

Our deepest sympathy goes to her family at this time, together with the assurance that we shall always value the memory of a most gracious Patron and a truly steadfast friend.



TWENTY YEARS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

TRIBUTE FROM MR.
JAMES LORING,
DIRECTOR OF THE
SPASTICS SOCIETY

It is difficult to describe just how grievous a loss is the death of Princess Marina, both to spastics personally and to their cause.

She had been closely associated with the work for spastics in this country for 20 years, becoming Royal Patron of the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics in 1958, and continuing her patronage when that body merged with the National Spastics Society in 1963.

Through all those years she maintained a close personal interest in our work, paying private visits to spastics' centres, opening many of our major units and always sending personal greetings at Christmas time.

I met her on a number of occasions, and know from my discussions with her that she felt deeply about human suffering and that her concern for the handicapped was entirely sincere.

FROM MEADWAY TO CROYDON

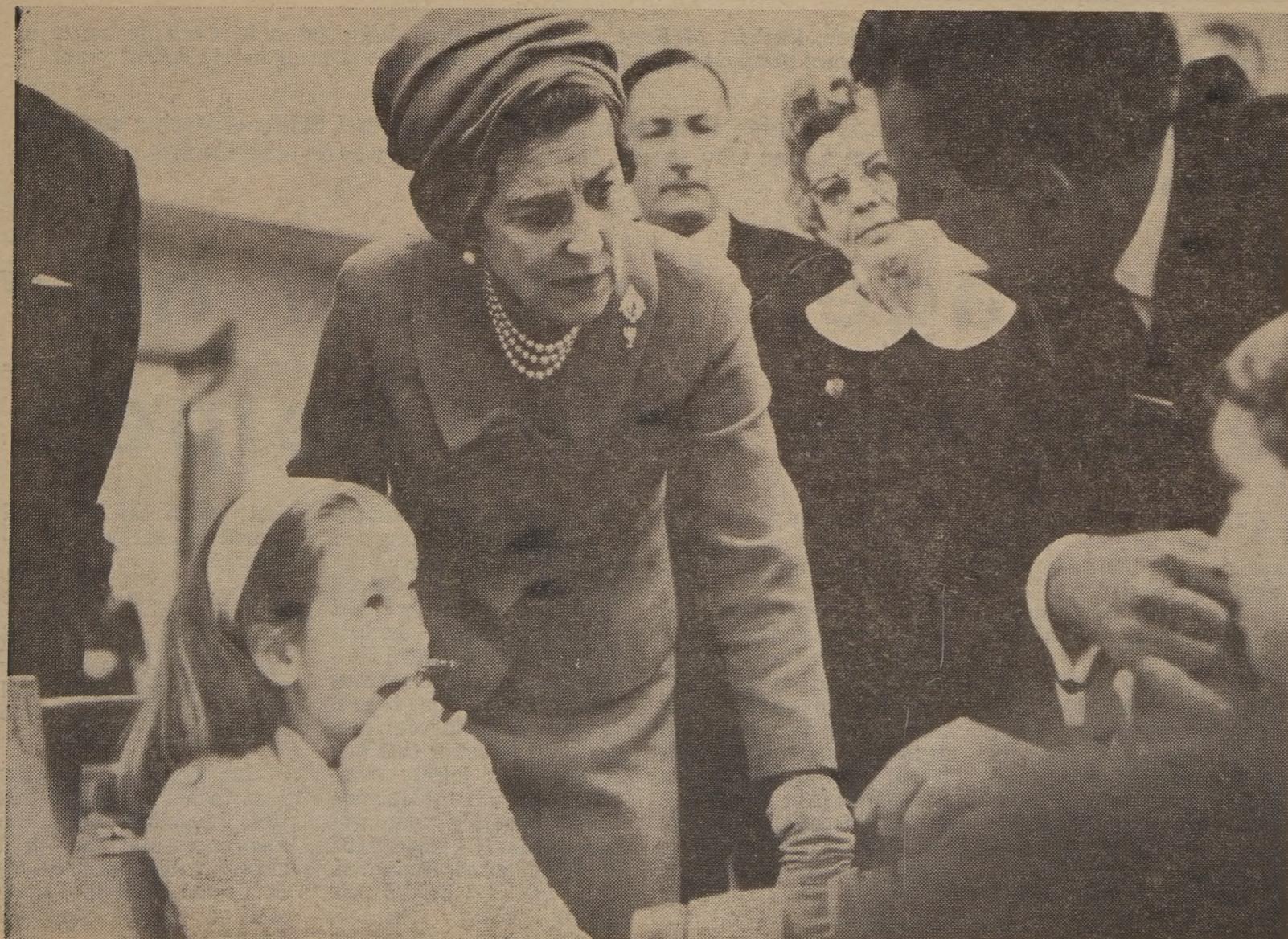
The picture on the left was taken when our Royal Patron unveiled a plaque to mark the Official Opening of the Meadway Works in Birmingham — the Society's 100th centre, and the first project of its kind in the world.

Below: Meeting a real live Princess is something this little girl will never forget. She and the Princess captivated each other after the opening of the Trevor Lloyd Hughes Centre at Clatterbridge Hospital.



Above: After opening the Croydon Work Centre, the Princess asked to meet all the spastics employed there so she could study their work.

Below: Spastic children always held a special place in the heart of the Princess. Here she has a few special words with an awed little girl in a party frock who had just presented her with a bouquet during a visit to Croydon





CHARITY — HER TRUE MEASURE

FROM the time her husband was killed in a wartime air crash, Princess Marina devoted her life to the service of her adopted country and its people. She became Commandant of the WRNS and took over her husband's presidencies of the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

She also inherited his presidency of the All-England Lawn Tennis Club and, since that time, no Wimbledon Championship has been complete without her presence in the Royal Box. Significantly her last public appearance was at the first Open Wimbledon Championships six weeks before her death.

But it was perhaps in the quiet, caring service she gave to her many charitable interests that the true measure of Princess Marina was to be found. She was Commandant-in-Chief of the St. John Nursing Corps and Patron of the National Association of Mental Health as well as Patron of the Spastics Society.

The demands on her time and her remarkable sense of duty were great. But Princess Marina was generous and tireless in meeting them.

CHERRY TREE AT MELDRETH

Top Right: The Princess planted a cherry tree as a memento of her Official Opening of the Meldreth Training School. Here, her spadework finished, she steps back to admire the result, watched by the Chairman of The Spastics Society, Mr. W. A. Burn. Below: Gaily dressed in cherry red, Princess Marina renews acquaintance with the Director of the Spastics Society, Mr. James Loring, at the Official Opening of the Southampton Centre in May this year.



A TOUGH REMARK . . .

Mr. James Loring, Director of the Spastics Society told Spastics News: 'On one occasion when I was on the platform with Princess Marina I felt obliged to describe the harrowing conditions in some of our subnormality hospitals. Afterwards, at tea, she said: 'You made a tough speech.' To which I replied, saying that it was indeed tough, but I hoped that she hadn't been embarrassed by it. Her retort was: 'Not at all. I only wished that I had said it myself. Some of these people need a severe jolt if anything is to be achieved.'

AND WHAT A MEMORY!

Rosemary Yearley, Barbara Hunter and Barbara Dawson, spastic girls who were formerly at Sherrards and are now at Meadoway Works, told Spastics News, 'we all met Princess Marina when she visited Sherrards in 1965. About a year later she officially opened Meadoway Works, and as she was walking round afterwards she saw us and immediately said: 'I met you before at Sherrards. How nice to see you again.'

Princess spoke to most of the apprentices . . .



Princess Marina insisted that ceremony be kept to a minimum so she could meet and talk to spastics. Here a young spastic at the Society's Meadway Works in Birmingham explains the intricacies of his work following the Official Opening of the works by the Princess.

UNDER ROYAL LAST ENGAGEMENT PATRONAGE

Princess Marina was visiting Ponds Home one day when she noticed the little shop there, run by and for the residents.

She at once went up to the counter and bought a bar of chocolate so the residents could proudly display a new shop sign — "Under Royal Patronage."

Princess Marina's last engagement for the Society was the opening of the new Southampton Spastics Centre.

"It is a good example of co-operation between a local group and the Society, and will make a vital contribution to those unable to benefit from education elsewhere," she said, in what was to be the last speech we in the Society would ever hear from her.

THE diaries for years gone by are studded with the Royal occasions when Princess Marina was visiting a spastics centre, sometimes to unveil a plaque and declare the building officially open, sometimes just to speak to spastics and to staff as a warm personal friend. Among these diary entries are her visit to the Oxfordshire Spastics Society's Day Centre in 1964 to officially open the building. Then, as often, she asked for the ceremony to be as short as possible so she could meet the children.

The Spring and Summer of 1965 were particularly memorable. The Princess visited Sherrards informally, speaking to most of the apprentices and studying their work. Soon afterwards she opened the Croydon Work Centre, then went on to pay a private visit to the adult residents of Coombe Farm. A few weeks later, dressed in the uniform of the St. John Ambulance Association, she went to the Craig-y-Parc School, near Cardiff, to open new extensions.

MEADWAY WORKS

In April 1966, she flew to Birmingham in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight to open the new Meadway Works. Later in the same year she travelled to Liverpool to open the Trevor Lloyd Hughes Centre for Spastic Children at Clatterbridge Hospital. The following day she paid a visit to Daresbury Hall, the Society's adult residential centre in Lancashire. On that occasion she was presented with some toys which she suggested should be sent to the children of Aberfan.

In 1967, she officially opened Meldreth Training School and was so interested in the project — the first of its kind in the world — that she spent extra time there talking to the children and listening to their percussion band.



Princess Marina delighted in talking to spastic children, and here she makes a new friend after the Official Opening of the Trevor Lloyd Hughes Centre for Spastic Children at Clatterbridge Hospital, Liverpool.

This picture pleased her so much that a copy was sent to Kensington Palace for her personal collection.

UNDERSTANDING BRIDGED ALL THE BARRIERS

Princess Marina was a true princess in every sense of the word. The anecdotes and stories of her warmth, friendship and interest abound. Here are just a few of the many tributes we received.

Dr. D. E. Wheeler, Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society and former Chairman:

"Her Royal Highness Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, was personally very deeply concerned about spastics, and her wonderful inspiration to us all will never be forgotten so long as the Society exists.

"I was privileged to be with the Princess when she visited several of the Society's centres and her human understanding and sympathy bridged all personal barriers and put spastics of every age at their ease, no matter how acute their handicap might be."

* * *

Miss Margaret Morgan, Head of The Spastics Society's Social Work and Employment Department:

"The conventional Royal Tour procedure was not for Princess Marina. She always wanted to see what was behind every closed door and round every corner, and, by her

depth and perception in discussion, showed a detailed knowledge of the problems of individual spastics and their families."

* * *

Mrs. Leonora Welch, Southampton and District Spastics Association:

"What impressed me so much about Her Royal Highness was her genuine concern for the children and what would happen to them. While she was visiting our Centre, a little boy came running up to her and we tried to hold him back.

"'Oh, don't stop him,' cried the Princess. 'I love the children to come to me!'

* * *

Miss Gwen Drake, young spastic worker in the printing section of Southampton Work Centre:

"I found the Princess so interested in all the work of spastics. I am truly sorry that

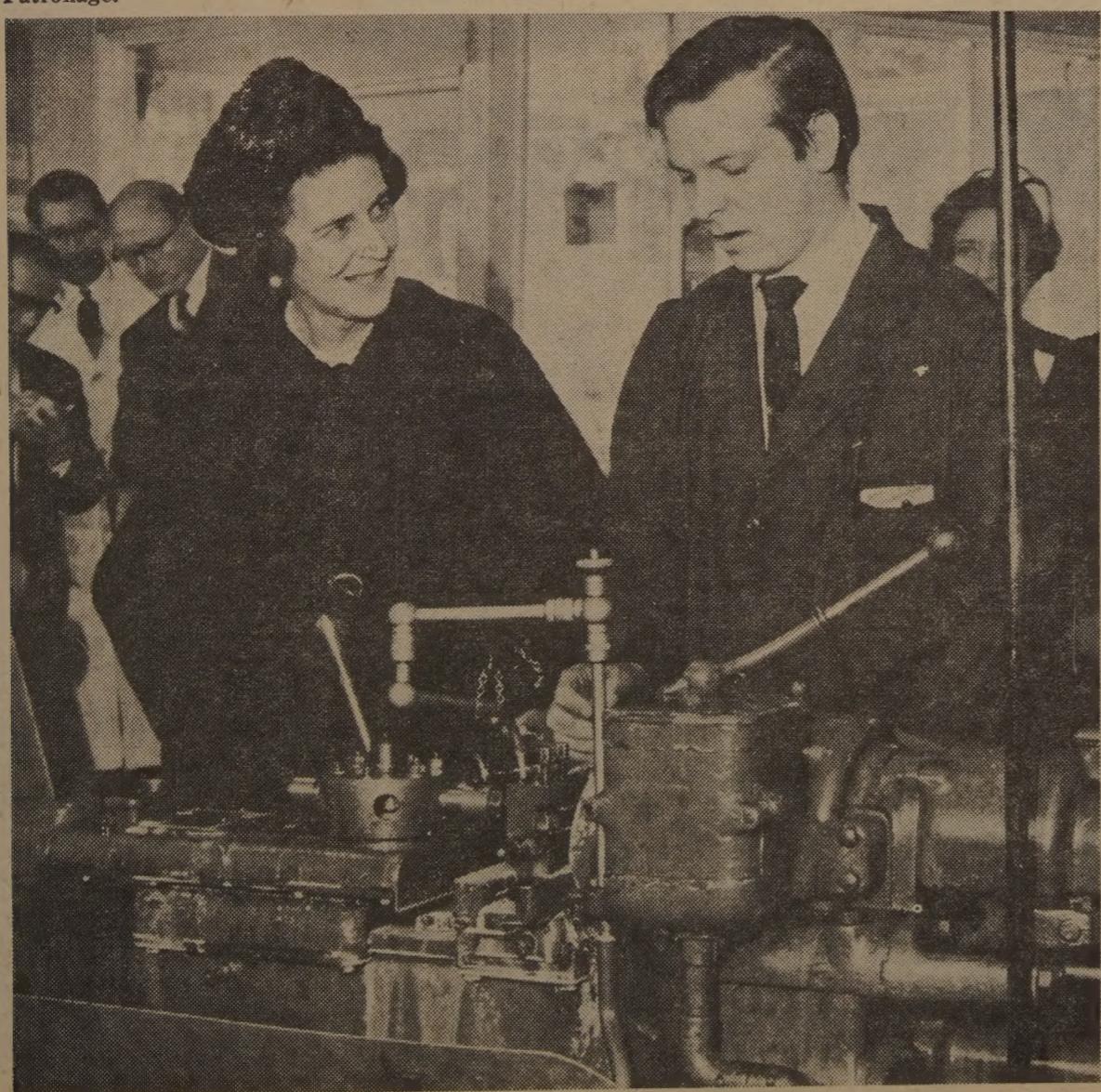
we shall never be able to speak to her again."

* * *
Mrs. Joan Pedler, Spastics Society Personnel Administration Officer, and responsible for much of the programme planning for Official Openings and Royal Visits:

"Her Royal Highness never left programme details to somebody else. She always went through them herself, often making cuts so she could have more time with spastics themselves. When she visited a Centre, she always tried to speak to every spastic there, and she would often alter a programme several times to make this possible."

* * *
Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director Services to Spastics:

"I have met Her Royal Highness both at home and during my hospital career abroad, and have always admired her dignity and understanding of everyday problems."



In 1965 the Princess paid an informal visit to Sherrards Training Centre in Hertfordshire. During her visit she met most of the spastic trainees and, a year later, immediately recognised a group of them when she met them again at Birmingham.